SOCCER STAR

SERVING VICTORIAN SOCCER

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JUST, BERGERS FACE THE DROP

SUNDAY'S NSL round left Melbourne fans precious little to cheer about. South Melbourne surrendered any lingering hope of playing in the finals with a disappointing draw, its third in succession, against APIA Leichhardt that came to Middle Park with only survival in mind.

Melbourne Croatia, handicapped by a heavy injury list found itself bogged down in the mud on the notorious St George pitch as team of the moment Sydney Olympic skipped away to a 3-1 win that cemented its place in the five.

The only bright news for Melbourne was provided by proud Preston which cruised comfortably into a double-chance spot with a 3-1 victory over St George. And only George Cross, of Melbourne's three relegation-haunted clubs, gained anything from the weekend.

It shared six goals with never-say-die Blacktown City which led twice and then had to level in the dying minutes to stay alive.

That third goal, by defencer Kurt Reynolds, could prove to be Blacktown's salvation.

● Continued Page 15

● Zlatko Arambasic's despairing grab at George Alevizos' shorts typified Blacktown's never-say-die struggle for survival at Sunshine on Sunday.

STATE LEAGUE AT A GLANCE

● JUVE 1
BULLEEN 0
OSAINTS 1
M'BYRNONG 1

● CAULF. 2
T'TOWN 2

● N'COTE 2
GULLY
GULLY 0

● CROYDON 1
BOX HILL 0

● FAWKNER 2
R'WOOD 0

● 'PINES 3
'GATE 0

Victorian Youth Victorious

THE Victorian Youth team did us all proud as it won the National Youth Championship for a record third year in succession in Canberra.

The Vics. won the title after a dramatic penalty shoot-out ended 8-7 in their favour, giving them five victories from five games.

Tim White has the story on page 12 .....

THE SCHINTLER RESERVE AFFAIR

THE near-farcical circumstances surrounding the postponement of Melbourne JUST's game with Adelaide City last Sunday raised a lot of disturbing points.

For a start, it illustrates the way that referees can be put under stress, especially at this stage of the season.

The saddest aspect of our ethnic-orientated National League is the propensity some people have for looking for a scandal or a conspiracy whenever a decision has to be made.

The people who are in charge of these clubs originate from countries where chicanery is rife, hardly a season goes by without there being some scandal about alleged match-fixing, or a case of attempted bribery of a referee in the Balkans.

So they approach you with a knowing air of secrecy, saying such and such a club will do another club a favour to save them from relegation, or use some similar phraseology.

Of course it never happens, because to put it into practice is so difficult, do you bribe the whole team, or just the goalkeeper? Or do you just approach the referee?

The maddest, most paranoic of supporters will readily recognise that trying to get a whole team to lie down is virtually impossible, but he is more than willing to believe that a referee or a linesman can be bought.

"What about that goal that was disallowed they say," with a knowing leer, "our player was never offside, but that poofter linesman waved his flag," (or he didn't when he should have, pick your own scenario).

I well remember two seasons back when Heidelberg was desperately trying to avoid relegation (that sounds familiar), having heated arguments every Monday morning with a fellow-journalist who was firmly convinced that there was a conspiracy afoot to favour George Cross at the expense of Heidelberg.

He even kept statistics purporting to show how many undeserved penalties George Cross had been awarded, compared with how many "unlucky" Heidelberg should have had, in his opinion.

And the trouble was he wasn't on his own, there were plenty of others who thought the same way.

It is because this climate of cynicism flourishes here that I think our referees have a far harder task than their colleagues in Europe, for instance.

The referee in the centre of the Schintler Reserve controversy, Dennis Voutsinas, is a very competent referee, and everyone who knows him respects him, but at the end of last season he decided that the stress was more than he could take and he decided to quit.

He was persuaded to reconsider and did, but this latest affair could prove to be the final straw.

You see, he's already had an earlier experience that left him with a nasty taste in the mouth.

He was due to referee a game recently between two Melbourne clubs, both of them in danger of relegation, but because one club is Greek-backed the other club objected to Voutsinas, citing his Greek origin and, at the last minute, he was switched to a Sydney game and an interstate referee took the game here.

It was an objectionable slur on Voutsinas, because it brands him as a possible cheat, which he isn't, and it doesn't say much for the administration of the NSL either.

If clubs are going to be allowed to pick their referees, where will it end?

If the NSL had so little faith in his ability to handle that game fairly, why was he appointed in the first place?

Then there is the matter of the second inspection of Schintler Reserve. The inexperienced official at the NSL who asked Voutsinas to pick up Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic at his motel did him a big disservice and should have known better.

Voutsinas only had to arrive at the ground with that coach in his car to set malicious tongues wagging . . . it's just as well that the coach is not Greek to boot, I suppose.

It is to be hoped that the NSL stands behind Voutsinas and issues a statement that clarifies the whole matter, because he tells me he is ready to quit and I can't say I blame him.

And the game can't afford to lose him, because we don't have more than a dozen competent, experienced referees in the whole country.

As for the Press, I can only say it is a great pity and a disservice to the game that some reporters didn't check the facts with Voutsinas before rushing into print.

If they had, we might have been spared such lurid headlines as "Blunder costs club $20,000".

★★★★★★★★★★

SNIPPETS

by LES SHORROCK

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

In a classic example of locking the stable door after the horse has bolted, the NSL last week issued an edict that in future, clubs had to notify the League of an alternative ground that they were prepared to use in the event of their own being declared unplayable.

It's too little, too late.

What will happen if the clubs refuse to comply, as JUST did when asked to play at Middle Park?

Is the League administration a paper tiger, or what?

If you remember, this was the year when all the NSL clubs were told they had to provide seating for 3000, with at least 1000 under cover.

No club in Melbourne complied, and what happened . . . nothing.

Bulleen might be toiling away in the middle of the State League, and happy to escape relegation, but its seating puts all Melbourne NSL clubs except South to shame, and as a club official pointed out proudly to me, it had those facilities way back in the Fourth Division!

The NSL now is on the horns of a dilemma.

If the weather doesn't improve rapidly, it will be struggling hard to complete the fixtures before the finals.

Because of the paranoia about "fixing" games that exists in the minds of some club administrators, the League just cannot allow some matches involving relegation to be played after July 16, the date of the last round.

Imagine the howl that would go up if, say, the bottom-placed club beat a club in the top five and thus avoided relegation.

But with Olympic Park still out of service, and since no NSL club has yet had the foresight to install floodlights, where is the NSL going to stage that postponed game between JUST and Adelaide City?

Word is that it must be played next Wednesday, July 12, and the possibility is that it might be played at the Skinner Reserve footy ground in Sunshine.

If that isn't an indictment of the NSL's blundering, bumbling administration I don't know what is.

Is this what Chairman Sam meant when he said there are still some teething troubles to be sorted out?

How many 13-year-olds do you know with teething troubles?

And don't tell me that summer soccer is the answer.

Summer soccer needs floodlighting even more than winter soccer does . . . you've heard the propaganda, about avoiding the heat of the day and enjoying the game on balmy nights, etc.

It starts on November 5, and still no Melbourne club has floodlights.

And that other line that Chairman Sam was peddling assiduously early in the season about the gates being up 34 per cent has been quietly dropped too.

No wonder, the attendance at the APIA v Preston game last Saturday week was a mere 481, whilst the Wednesday night game between St George and Melbourne JUST game attracted, if that is the right word, a mere 241 souls.

I wonder that they bothered to count them.

★★★★★★★★★★

DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

Despite the disclaimer that we print every week to say that we are not responsible for compiling results or League Tables, we still get 'phone calls complaining about occasional mistakes.

The position is that Victorian League, Provisional League, and Junior League tables are not compiled by us and we are not responsible. The VSF computer produces all the tables and results and they go direct to our printer.

We don't touch them at all, and even if a mistake is made, we are not in a position to make any alterations or additions.

We print, each week, no fewer than 73 sets of results and tables, more than any other sports newspaper in the country, and it must be obvious to anyone that if we were to compile them all ourselves we wouldn't have *time left to print the news*paper every week.

So please, no more phone calls at 7am or 10.30pm, we can't help you.

★★★★★★★★★★

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SUPPORT YOUR CLUB TRADESMAN

● Mick McGorian, from Sandringham to Albion.

● Billy Hamill — from Western Suburbs to Altona City.

NELSON'S COLUMN

AS I promised last week I've been looking into the vocations of some of the leading characters in the game.

Working as I do for Framptons Carpets of Ferntree Gully (how's that for a plug, Robert?), I'm often on the road five days a week and I keep bumping into people in the soccer scene.

But one chap I always try hard to avoid is Moorroolbark's Irish goalie, Les Long.

He's a parking inspector working in the city, mainly in Elizabeth Street, it appears.

If your work takes you into the city a lot, it might be a good idea to join Moorroolbark and put the club badge on your car.

Alternatively, if that's too much trouble, put a big notice in the back window of the car reading "Moorroolbark for the NSL", that ought to do the trick.

Also upholding law and order is big Ronnie Sinclair of Knox City, who is based in Ferntree Gully.

Those handcuffs come in useful for sticking close to strikers, eh Ronnie?

But outranking Ronnie in a big way is Senior Sergeant Eurgene Snopowski, my old Polonia team manager.

Eugene is in the vice squad, stationed in St Kilda Road.

We also have four "private eyes", SK, WK, BL (inch high private eye) and NL.

Naturally I can't divulge their names as then they would no longer be private, but look out for the dark glasses and trench coats.

Mercifully moving on, if you want your house renovated in any way, here are some boys who can help you.

Dave "Elbows" Brogan will look after your windows, so will Frank Jackson and Jim Train. "Bomber" Brown will plaster you, Gus Macleod and Robert Brian will fix you up with lights and fittings. I'll do your carpets, and when it comes to painting, you're almost spoilt for choice.

You've got Gerry Bennett, John Nyholt and Bobby Russell for starters. Mind you, now I come to think of it, Bobby Russell might have put away the brushes now that he's a business tycoon in the indoor soccer world, following in the footsteps of the van Egmonds.

And here's a tip, if you don't want your head ripped off as you venture into the heart of the Croydon defence, you'd better get smart and buy your paint from Dave McIntosh's Paint City in Nunawading.

Another hard-working Mooroolbark player is Kees Storm. He'll clean your brickwork for you.

And there's no worries if you live in a three-storey house either. Garry McDowall's in the scaffolding business (that's how he climbs up over opposing strikers, is it?

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Maribyrnong takes on Northcote City this week, and I'm looking forward to game for a couple of reasons.

Northcote's Rothmans twins "Harold" and "Norman" are always a pleasure to be crunched by, and it's good to see Jimmy Constantinou and Pedro Ramos back playing also.

But the player I'm really looking forward to seeing in action is big Peter Cocker because it will be my first sight of him in action this season and I've been hearing so many different reports about him.

Everybody who has played against him has rated him highly, but the committee at his last club (dare I say the "Brains Trust"?) was always very lukewarm in their assessment of him and was very happy to get the $6500 transfer fee for him.

I'll bet Paul Harris was keen for him to join Northcote, remembering the way he smacked in four goals against him one gloomy day last year at Caulfield.

And Juventus coach Manfred Schaefer must be pleased that the VSF has that ridiculous one-transfer-a-season rule too.

He must have nightmares every time Cocker's name is mentioned, because big Peter scored the winner in two of the games Juventus has lost this season.

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By way of a change, Maribyrnong trained at the Westgate Sports Complex at Altona last Tuesday night, and also there were Ian Wallace's Albion lads.

It was very enjoyable, but it was so cold I was amazed to hear that Scott of the Antarctic **hadn't** laid the foundation stone.

(It was so cold in fact that all my teammates turned into icy Poles).

The Albion crowd soon warmed the place up though — isn't ten-a-side rather a lot for indoors Ian?

I noticed that in the late transfer rush, Mick McGorian has joined Albion.

That means he'll be playing alongside John Dowie, Tyrone James, Donnie Macleod and Sweeney Todd himself aka Gordon Flavell.

My first thought is, they might not win all their games, but they'll certainly win the fights.

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THE BIG TRANSFER RUSH ENDS

The staff at Soccer House must have heaved a bigh sigh of relief when knocking off time came round last Friday night.

There was quite a rush to beat the transfer deadline and some interesting moves came off.

Big George McMillan didn't have far to take his boots," he went from Thomastown to neighbouring Lalor United.

Elegant Eddie Campbell came in from the cold and signed for Doncaster Rovers.

Eddie has been out of action so long he thought soccer balls still had laces.

A couple of weeks ago I gave you the tip that Davie Gibson was looking for a couple of State League defenders, didn't I?

Well, Altona City snapped up Billy Hamill from Western Suburbs and Ricky Lipiarski, my old teammate from Maribyrnong, on Friday.

I'll miss you, Ricky and that's The Truth.

Anyway, best wishes to all of them.

— ROB

●●●●●●●●●●

● Ricky Lipiarski — from Maribyrnong to Altona City.

Wadey says . . . "Marconi's tops!"

THE last time I went to Sydney was that fateful day in April when I was playing for South Melbourne against Sydney Croatia, and when I broke my leg.

This time I was going as a commentator with the ABC to Sydney Croatia's close neighbours Marconi.

According to Derryn Hinch Ansett had been threatened with disruption to passenger safety, you can understand that the trip did not have much of a holiday feel about it.

Thanks to Ansett, all was well and I arrived at the Marconi Stadium in one piece.

Once again I was reminded of the might of this club, as the social club and football stadium floodlights sit proudly among a sea of cars and surrounding houses.

Whenever I se these facilities I always sigh and think why can't we in Melbourne afford such a complex.

It is said that we have the largest Greek population outside of Athens and the Croatian, Yugoslavian, Macedonian and Italian communities are not small.

Soccer amongst juniors in Melbourne is a very popular sport, far out weighing Aussie Rules and other sports.

By PAUL WADE

I was amazed to see the number of families arriving at Marconi's ground when I arrived at 11.30 am.

Most of the small children took off to run riot in an enclosed playing area whilst the older ones, mainly girls, sat around in a room the size of two penalty areas, talking about the disco at the Club that night.

Apparently the disco attracts people from the entire western suburbs. Most of the boys were involved in a kick about on one of the outside training pitches.

Parents, if not involved in playing the poker machines, were lunching in the club's a la carte restaurant, and the soccer mad were having a few drinks and watching Italian soccer on a large screen in the lounge.

All this was happening three hours before kick off.

Within an hour and a half of kick off you could not move for the crowd.

So for Mike Hill (the main commentator) and me it was off to the ground to check out the pitch and facilities.

I was taken in to the Marconi dressing rooms which were like something out of Rich and Famous.

They dwarfed Olympic Park's dressing rooms and facilities.

The players could choose from fourteen showers and a 4ft. deep spa bath that could seat ten comfortably.

The stand sheltering the dressing rooms seats 3000 with private boxes for sponsors.

The other 7000 stood or terracing in the beautiful winter sun.

Yes, and we were all witness to a very entertaining game of soccer between Marconi and Sydney Croatia.

While the 1-1 draw was a fair result, with Croatia taking Graham Arnold's lead in the first half with a goal by Craig Foster after ten minutes, Marconi was inspired by a 60th minutes substitution which saw Peter Katholos lift the Marconi side to enable Vince Calaguri to deliver a deserved goal in the 72nd minute.

All the fans retired to the Social Club, content at the result, and I left homebound for Melbourne thinking that there is no difference between Melbourne and Sydney in the football skills, but Melbourne is streets behind in the social aspects.

NSL DETAILS

Round Twenty-Four

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (Ironside 7th, Lee 15th, Polak 68th) MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Awaritefe 73rd).
At St George Stadium, Sunday. Referee G. Power.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling - Barrett, Georgakis, Hooker, Bernal (Koch HT) - Lee, Ironside, Phillips, Polak - Saad (McGarry 80th), Edwards. Coach Eddie Thomson.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Grgic - Davidson, Selemides, Cannell, Jurcic - Biskic, Milosevic, Caleta, Duzel - Awaritefe, Adzic. Coach Ivan Reznjevic.

WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Kotamanides 75th) MELBOURNE JUST 0
At Brandon Park, Sunday. Referee P. Spiers.
WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutsos - Skeen, Morlando, Vlietstra Hollifield - Pontides, Easthorpe, Stefanovski (Brodnik 75th), Crainie - Ingham, Calbanese (Kotamanides 60th). Coach Doug Collins.
MELBOURNE JUST: Nikitovic - Deankovic, Karic (Lazopoulos 63rd), van Egmond, Mitrovski - Durakovic, Besvinovski (Kalogeros 70th), Crino, Murphy - Palatsides, Retre. Coach John Margarites.

ADELAIDE CITY: 2 (Melta, pen. 58th, Vidmar 85th) HEIDELBERG: UNITED 1 (Stevenson 23rd).
At Olympic Sportsfield, Sunday. Referee J. Fraser. Cautions G. McDowall. Gojevic (H).
ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica - Shillabeer, Ivanovic, Flounders, Tobin - Melta, Santrac (T. Vidmar 90th), Villani, A. Vidmar - Mullen, Maxwell. Coach Zoran Matic.
HEIDELBERG UNITED: Olver - Kanesoulis (P. Mcdowall 88th), Russell, G. McDowall, Scott - Stewart, Douglas, Campbell, Gojevic (Tredinnick 84th) - Stubbins, Stevenson. Coach Miron Bleiberg.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 APIA LEICHHARDT 0
At Middle Park, Sunday. Referee D. Campbell.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: McLaren - Healy, Fernandes, Blair, Postecoglou - Petersen, Tsolakis, Tasios (Mori 60th), Taliadoros - Trimboli, Wright. Coach Brian Garvey.
APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano - M. Brown, Halliday, Radoslavjevic, Webber - Mason, Bundalo, Ellem, Ricoy - Blagojevic (inj. Kosmina HT), R. Brown. Coach Michael Urukalo.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 3 (Lewis 23rd, 71st, McLaren 63rd) BLACKTOWN CITY 3 (Gibson 9th, Arambasic 37th, Reynolds 83rd).
At Chaplin Reserve, Sunday. Referee R. Lorenc. Caution Morley (GX).
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh - Alevizos, Waddell, Parton, Ketsakides - Carter (Morley 58th), McLaren, Faulkner, Campelj - Latif, Lewis. Coach John Gardiner.
BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson - Naumov, G. Sterrey, Reynolds, Maier - Odzakov (Bennett 71st), Gibson, van Blerk, Batten - Arambasic, McKinna (Ferguson 71st). Coach Les Scheinflug.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 3 (Tasevski 29th, Spink 51st, Markovac 62nd) ST GEORGE 1 (Krislovic 65th).
At Connor Reserve, Sunday. Referee D. Voutsinas. Caution Ollerenshaw (St.G).
PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes - Runje, Jackson, Piculovski, Jolevski - Petrov, Tasevski, Taseski - Spink, Markovski (inj. Brian 74th), Smith (Markovac HT). Coach Andon Doncevski.
ST GEORGE: Gibson - Green, Koczka, Ratcliffe (Bingley 57th), Grbevski - O'Shea, Harper, Moffitt, Pottier (Ilic 72nd) - Krslovic, Ollerenshaw. Coach Frank Arok.

MARCONI 1 (Colagiuri 73rd) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Foster 12th).
At Marconi Stadium, Sunday. Referee J. Reeves.
MARCONI: Catlin - Colucci, Calderan, Wheatley, de Marigny - Gray, McCulloch, Gomez (Katholos 72nd), Lowe (Gunning 72nd) - Nastevski, Colagiuri. Coach Berti Mariani.
SYDNEY CROATIA: Krajnovic - Savor, Hunter, Rozic, Jennings - Clinch, Jones, Arnold, Foster - Slater, Lamond. Coach Vedran Rozic.

Deferred Games

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Saad 7th, Lee 25th) APIA LEICHHARDT 0
At Marconi Stadium, Wednesday. Postponed from April 23. Referee R. Lorenc. Caution Haniotis (SO), Brown, Halliday (A).
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling - Barrett, Hooker, Haniotis, Georgakis - Phillips, Edwards (McGarry 70th), Polak, Lee - Ironside, Saad. Coach Eddie Thomson.
APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano - Webber, Radoslavjevic, Halliday, M. Brown - Manson, Bundalo (Ellem 68th), Blagojevic, Ricoy - R. Brown, Kosmina. Coach Michael Urukalo.

BLACKTOWN CITY 0 SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (Jones 40th, 84th).
At Croatian Sports Centre (Double-header), Wednesday postponed from March 19. Referee P. Spiers.
BLACKTOWN CITY: Londos - Naumov (Bennett 36th, McKinna 72nd), Reynolds, Northam, G. Sterrey - Odzakov, Gibson, Maier, van Blerk - Arambasic, Ferguson. Coach Les Scheinflug.
SYDNEY CROATIA: Krajnovic - Savor, Hunter, Rozic, Jennings - Clinch, Jones, Arnold, Zajmi (Foster 58th), Slater, Lamond (Zelic 84th). Coach Vedran Rozic.

ST GEORGE 1 (o.g. 89th) MELBOURNE JUST 1 (Deankovic 57th)
At Croatian Sports Centre, Wednesday (Double-header). Postponed from May 21. Referee J. Reves. Caution Ratcliffe (St.G).
ST GEORGE: Gibson - Green, Harper, Ratcliffe, Grbevski - O'Shea, Krslovic, Moffitt (Adioski 75th), Pottier - Ilic, Ollerenshaw. Coach Frank Arok.
MELBOURNE JUST: Nikitovic - Deankovic, Karic, van Egmond, Lazopoulos - Mitrovski, Besvinovski (Kalogeros 87th), Crino, Murphy - Retre, Palatsides. Coach John Margarites.

NSL LADDER

MARCONI	23	14	5	4	54	24	33
MELB. CROATIA	24	12	5	7	42	31	29
PRES.MAKED.	23	11	7	5	30	19	29
SYD. OLYMP.	23	10	7	6	33	23	27
ST GEORGE	22	10	6	6	24	22	26
Syd. Croatia	23	9	8	6	21	19	26
Adelaide C	22	9	7	6	24	19	25
Sth. Melb.	24	9	6	9	41	34	24
APIA Leich.	23	7	7	9	25	31	21
Wollong. City	24	7	6	11	20	28	20
George Cross	23	6	5	12	21	31	17
Blacktown C	23	4	8	11	23	42	16
Heidelb. Un	23	6	3	14	18	41	15
Melb. JUST	22	4	6	12	20	32	14

YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

MALVERN CITY 2 MELBOURNE CROATIA 3

STH MELBOURNE 7 CAULFIELD 2

GEORGE CROSS 5 ALTONA GATE 2

PRESTON 2 MELBOURNE JUST 1

LADDER

GEORGE C	17	15	2	0	68	19	32
ALTONA GATE	18	12	2	4	53	23	26
PRESTON	17	11	1	5	62	26	23
STH MELB	16	8	2	5	56	23	18
HEIDELBERG	16	8	2	6	33	29	18
MELB. CROA.	14	7	1	6	27	29	15
CLIFTON HILL	15	5	3	7	19	44	13
CAULFIELD	18	5	2	11	31	51	12
MELB. JUST	15	4	3	8	24	25	11
MALVERN C	17	3	2	12	27	76	8
CLAYTON	18	1	2	15	19	24	4

GOALSCORERS

17. Nastevski (Marc3p)

11. De Jong (Marc)
Kelic (MC)

10. Adzic (MCr, 3p)
Trimboli (South)

9. Ollerenshaw (St.G, 4p)
Awaritefe (MCr)

8. Lewis (GX)
Spink (PM)

7. Bingley (St.G)
Brown.R (Ap, 1p)
Gray (Marc)
Lowe (Marc)
Markovski (PM, 2p)
Postecoglou (South 6p)

6. Ironside (SO)
Latif (GX)
Saad (SO)
Taliadoros (South)

5. Arambasic (Bl)
Easthorpe (Woll)
Hagan (Ap)
Kosmina (Ap)
Lee (SO)
Maxwell (AC)
Melta (AC, 3p)
Mullen (AC)
Stubbins (Heid)

4. Arnold (S.Cr)
Brodnik (Woll)
Colagiuri (Marc)
Gibson (Bl)
McCulloch (Mar)
Mori (South)
Retre (MJ)
Smith (PM)
Tasios (South)

3. Caleta (MCr)
Crino (MJ)
Dimoski (MC)
Lamond (SCr)
McKinna (Ap)
Milosevic (MC)
Palatsides (MJ)
Ricoy (Ap)
Seal (SCr)
Slater (SC)
Soper (SO)
Stevenson (Heid)
Tsolakis (South)
Van Blerk (Bl)
Vidmar (AC)
Villani (AC)
Zinni (PM)

2. Biskic (MC)
Cokely (Woll)
Crainie (Woll)
Edwards (SO)
Deankovic (MJ)
Gomez (Marc)
Hasler (GX)
Hunter (SC)
Ilic (St.G)
Jones (SC)
Koczka (St.G)
McGarry (SO)
Markovac (PM)
Morley (GX)
Murray (Ap)
Dusalkas (Heid)
Polak (SO)
Radoslavjevic (Ap)
Skeen (Woll)
Slater (S.Cr)
Sterrey.G (Bl)
Talajic (MJ)
Tasevski (PM)
van Blerk (Bl)
Wright (SM)

1. Barrett (SO)
Bennett (SO)
Bernal (SO)
Calderan (Mar)
Carter (Mar)
Dakos (SO)
Danzo (Woll)
Davidson (MCr)
Denyer (Bl)
Ellem (Ap)
Faulkner (GX)
Flounders (AC)
Foster (SM)
Foster (SC)
Goutzioulis (Heid)
Ingham (SC)
Jackson (PM)
Jee (Bl)
Kotamanides (Woll)
Krislovic (St.G)
Lazopoulos (MJ)
McLaren (GX)
Micheil (SM)
Morlando (Woll)
Murphy (MJ)
Naumov (Bl)
Odzakov (Bl)
Opasinis (MC)
Petersen (SM)
Petkovic (Ap)
Phillips (Ap, 1p)
Raynes (Heid)
Reynolds (Bl)
Roodhouse (PM)
Savor (SC)
Selemides (MCr)
Stewart (Heid)
Tapai (MJ)
Theodosopoulos (H)
Tredinnick (Heid)
Vial (AC)
Wade (SM)

NSL REPORTS

PRESTON GRABS DOUBLE CHANCE

PRESTON cemented its place in the finals as it virtually wrapped up the race for the top three double chance when it outclassed St George 3-1 in the Connor Reserve mud.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *ROBBIE MARKOVAC*

The win left Preston four points clear of a St George team which, until Sunday, had been its closest challenger for the crucial third place.

Two unforced errors by St George on each side of half-time and an inspired substitution by Preston coach Andon Doncevski broke St George's spirit.

Preston led after 28 minutes when Zoran Ilic fouled Ilja Tasevski conceding a free kick on the edge of the box.

Preston's defensive general Steve Jackson angled the kick across the goalmouth and Tasevski grabbed his second goal in as many games with a clinical finish.

Half-time substitute Robbie Markovac set up Preston's second goal five minutes after the break when his fresh legs outpaced St George veteran David Ratcliffe and he cut the ball back for Warren Spink, who turned, goalie Mike Gibson and speared the ball home.

Markovac made it 3-0 on the hour as he curled a long-distance shot past the advancing Gibson to wrap up the points. Although St George pulled one goal back four minutes later through Tony Krslovic, the homeside was rarely troubled.

Preston, which missed numerous chances including a penalty by John Markovski, saved by Gibson, put its celebrations on ice despite the crucial victory.

With 17 minutes remaining a seemingly harmless clash between Saints' Andy Koczka and Markovski left the Preston star writhing in pain on the ground.

Markovski, who has recently overcome a troublesome groin injury, was carried off the field on a stretcher with an injury to his left knee.

GEORGIE DEMONS SHARE 6

Blacktown's losing sequence ended when it held Sunshine George Cross to a 3-3 draw in the game at Chaplin Reserve.

Blacktown led twice, but ended up salvaging a point when Kurt Reynolds scrambled the equaliser eight minutes from the end.

John Gibson put the visitors ahead after nine minutes when he ran on to a half clearance and hit a lobbed shot over Sean Keogh from the edge of the box.

Sunshine levelled at 1-1 in the 23rd minute when Jeff Faulkner collected a cross by Ozzie Latif and pushed the ball wide for Paul Lewis to fire home from the right side of the penalty area.

Blacktown regained the lead in the 37th minute when Zlatko Arambasic controlled a low centre from Jason Van Blerk and hit his shot low past Keogh.

Sunshine put on Pat Morley after the break and the substitute played a part in the equaliser for 2-2. Morley ran past a de-

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *PAUL LEWIS*

Contd. on page 13

Marconi almost there

A LATE equaliser from striker Vince Colagiuri gave Marconi a valuable point which could leave Sydney Croatia with a battle on its hands to win a spot in the play-offs.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *JEAN PAUL DE MARIGNY*

Colagiuri was one of four changes in the Marconi side hwich went down to Sydney Olympic the previous weekend but coach Berti Mariani's gamble in reshuffling his side may well have paid off with this 1-1 draw at the Marconi Stadium.

Mariani recalled goalkeeper Bob Catlin for Brett Hughes, brought in Jean Paul de Marigny for Paul Carter and included Ian Gray in his starting line-up in preference to substitute Peter Katholos.

But perhaps the man Marconi missed most was Kiwi striker Fred de Jong, who was out through suspension and was replaced by Colagiuri.

De Jong's height, strength and ability to shield the ball while making space for sharpshooter Zlatko Nastevski was sorely missed.

Croatia was well on top of a disappointing Marconi during a first half in which it had total domination of midfield.

Graham Arnold forsook his striker's role to take up a deep lying midfield position which gave a decisive edge to Croatia's ability to control proceedings.

Craig Foster put his side into the lead after 12 minutes following a defensive lapse which allowed winger Robbie Slater to find Foster free in the six yard box.

Croatia's commitment and determination was proving too much for Marconi, which looked disorganised and lacked leadership.

Marconi started to settle into its familiar rhythm after half an hour and slowly began to claw its way back into the game.

For a short period after the break Slater and Arnold threatened to turn the screws on Marconi but the home side survived and started to find gaps into which its football began to flow.

The turning point came when Mariani threw midfielder Katholos into the fray in the 68th minute at the expanse of Gerry Gomez.

This gave Marconi added composure in the middle of the park and the equaliser came within five minutes.

De Marigny was sent away wide on the left by sweeper Robbie Wheatley but saw his low cross blocked on the line. De Marigny regained possession, bet Wally Savor and cut the ball back for Colagiuri to tap home a precious equaliser.

From then on, Marconi got right on top of Croatia and looked the side most likely to win both points.

Wollongong Reaches safety

Melbourne JUST coach John Margarites still thinks his team can avoid relegation despite Sunday's 1-0 loss to fellow strugglers Wollongong City at Brandon Park.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *MIKE HOLLIFIELD*

Margarites said after the game his team was still capable of surviving but only if it started taking its scoring opportunities.

The coach said his attack let the side down badly against Wollongong but they really didn't get too many chances in a game dominated by the home team.

Melbourne was simply blotted out of the action by a very efficient Wollongong defence led by an outstanding performance from left fullback Mike Hollifield.

Wollongong's all-important goal was scored in the 75th minute by replacement Peter Kotamanidis.

It came when Melbourne JUST looked to be tiring on the muddy playing surface after having played a midweek game in similar conditions against St George.

Wollongong fullback David Skeen sent midfielder Rade Stefanovski clear on the right wing and Kotamanidis was waiting in the middle to head home Stefanovski's cross.

Wollongong's Randell Easthorpe hit the cross bar with a header soon after and Sean Ingham drove a 10 metre shot just wide after eluding two defenders as JUST struggled to hold out eager opposition.

Wollongong coach Doug Collins said he was relieved to see Kotamanidis' header find the back of the net.

"I really thought JUST was there for the taking for most of the game but my players put pressure on themselves," Collins said.

"That was a very important goal for us and I really think we are now safe from relegation."

Wollongong, on 20 points now has the cushion it needs to avoid the drop, with only Heidelberg and Apia to play.

Melbourne JUST, on 13 points, still has to face up to Sunshine, Adelaide City, Melbourne Croatia and Sydney Olympic.

SOUTH DISAPPOINTS AGAINST APIA

SOUTH Melbourne winger Peter Tsolakis may have cost his team a place in the final five when he squandered a golden opportunity against Apia in the match at Middle Park.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *PAUL TRIMBOLI*

South went into the match in fifth, but with several teams having games in hand, its prospects of holding the position rested on Sunday's result.

It appeared to have the two points safely won

Contd. on page 13

ADCITY ON COURSE FOR SEMIS

CITY kept its semi-final hopes alive today with a fighting 2-1 win over lowly placed Heidelberg.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *AURELIO VIDMAR*

City never looked to be in the game in the first half as Heidelberg played a superb mix of defensive and attacking soccer.

A magnificent goal by Heidelberg's Stuart Stevenson put his side one up at the break and the game looked to be in Heidelberg's keeping.

But it was a totally different game in the second half.

Heidelberg continued to play well but City increased its workload and scoring opportunities.

Sergio Melta levelled the scores in the 58th minute when he scored from a penalty.

Aurelio Vidmar sealed Heidelberg's fate in the 84th minute with an amazing overhead scissor kick.

Socceroo Jeff Olver was magnificent in goal for Heidelberg while teammates Phil Stubbins and Garry McDowall offered strong support.

Villani and Melta were probably best for City along with an inspired performance from Milan Ivanovich in defence.

City coach Zoran Matic said he was relieved to get the two points.

"You can't hope for anything more from these sorts of games," Matic said.

Meanwhile Heidelberg coach Miron Bleiberg holds great fears of relegation.

"The NSL will benefit by sticking with us," Bleiberg said.

"We are an important part of the league, we are good for the competition."

● *Continued P. 7*

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Action Packed Picture Page

● LEFT: Blacktown captain Ralph Maier is determined that Georgie's Ossie Latif shall not pass.

● RIGHT: Georgie's Jeff Faulkner weaves his way past Blacktown's Jason van Blerk.

PICTURES By LES SHORROCK

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WITH Round Two of the Manfield Bunney League Cup not yet complete, all of last year's heroes are already history.

In the opening round, last year's finalists were bundled out in short order, and in Round Two it was the turn of last year's losing semi-finalists, Middle Park and Northern Timorese, to suffer the ignominy of a quick exit.

Middle Park was outplayed by Fourth Division Epping Thistle, finally losing 2-4, while Northern Timorese was never in the race against Division One Morning front-runners, Highpoint, and was comprehensively beaten 4-1.

Despite the previous night's downpour, most grounds had recovered well during the preceding five days of dry weather, and as a result only two of the 16 matches were post. Nonetheless, the grounds were heavy going and there were a lot of tired legs at the end of the day — none more so than in the Flamingo/Bayside ATA clash.

At times it seemed that this match would never end. First one side, and then the other, gained the ascendancy, only to see its opponents claw back to even terms.

From an 0-0 scoreless at half time, Flamingo piled on the pressure and through goals by Louis, Dantas and Bassy led 3-0 at the 75th minute.

It seemed all over. But now Bayside ATA, determined not to go down without a fight, began to chip away at the Flamingo lead.

Mehmet scored at the 75th minute. Unver at the 80th, and in the dying seconds Haklon made a 3-3. Bayside ATA maintained the initiative in extra time and soon went into the lead for the first time when Metin blasted wide of the Flamingo keeper.

The Baysiders' jubilation did not last long. Flamingo's Dantas powered down the wing, laid the ball off, and running into perpoint position for the return pass, brought the scores level.

Flamingo took an early leadhe "Penalty Shootround was leading 4-3 when it took the 9th kick for able advantage. But Bayside's keeper brought off a brilliant save, and in turn made no mistake.

But in the sudden death segment, Flamingo made sure of its first, but Bayside missed.

Flamingo heaved a huge sigh of relief as it came away the narrowest of winners from this enthralling contest, which referee Sam Zoumas described as one of the most enjoyable ever.

In another extremely close encounter, Springvale Eagles took on 3rd Division Altona North Tarxien.

The Eagles went to the lead early when Farfan dummied the keeper to open the scoring, but neither side was able to dent the respective defences for the remainder of the first half.

After the break, the Eagles' Caradon made it 2-0, but Tarxien's Laguna brought it back to 2-1 five minutes later.

Tarxien forced a corner at the 70th minute, and from the resultant kick curling toward the near post came one of the prettiest headed goals of the entire season.

The back-header whistled viciously just wide of the keeper and just under the bar.

The only trouble was that the header came from an Eagles' defender, and he had just presented Tarxien with the equaliser which, despite all the hard work of its players, it had not really looked like getting. There was no advance to the score during extra time, but the Eagles had the better of the penalties, running out winners 4-3.

Perhaps the bravest performance of the day came from Fourth Division Eltham & Diamond Valley which matched Division One Morning's ANZ Bank metre for metre, goal for goal, and in the end may have counted itself extremely unlucky to lose.

The Bankers led 1-0 at half time through an Amarella goal, which was cancelled straight after the interval by the Valley's Craig Dodd. Wilson struck for the Bankers in the first half of extra time, only to see his side's advantage nullified by Smith's power-laden volley five minutes into the second period. So, it was down to penalties, which went with the kickers until the score was 5-4.

Smith stepped up to make it 5-all but hit his shot straight at the keeper, and the game was all over.

Despite the loss, Eltham & Diamond Valley can be justly proud of its team, which really put in 110% effort for the entire 140-odd minutes of is match.

There were not quite so many bitten nails in other encounters.

Tottenham's 8-1 win over Laminex left no argument about who was Top Dog while Glenroy's Doxa's 8-3 defeat of Kings Park Heights and Middle East's 5-0 drubbing of Altona Heights left no room for questions.

Montrose also had a convincing 5-0 win, this time at the expense of Lalor United, with Eddy Persons notching a hat trick in the process. The remaining goals came from Steve Axon, from the Spot, and Pat Evans.

Three West's Ardeer had the better of Oakleigh City in an away fixture which was a little more like mud wrestling than soccer. Ardeer emerged with a 4-1 win. Apart from Wally Spiteri, whose goal was clear-cut and an absolute beauty, no-one is quite sure who got the other four, as they were all the result of goal-mouth scrambles in two very congested and gluey penalty areas.

In other matches, Altona Ilinden disposed of fellow First Division contender, Australian Airlines; Melbourne Rumania scrambled to a 3-2 win over Northcote United, while Footscray accounted for Bowater, 4-1 with relative ease.

Two crucial and highly interesting games failed to get off the ground. The encounter between Thomastown United and St Albans Dynamo promised to be an extremely competitive one, and one which could ultimately decide the fate of the Cup.

Similarly, Division Three West's Sunshine Macedonia has been in sparkling form, and many of us were wondering how it would face up to a Flemington Floridia which, apart from a solitary hiccup has itself been handling most opposition with ease.

Some sort of history was made in the Invitation Cup when Glenroy Doxa which has never failed to get at least as far as the semi-finals, and has won the Cup on seven occasions, was bundled out in the first full round, going down 4-2 on penalties to Flamingo.

Cretan Athletic absolutely annihilated Thomastown United 8-0 to sound a massive warning to the Big Two, Keysborough Blue Danube and Elwood United, that trouble lies ahead.

For its part, Elwood United engaged in a sustained artillery duel with Dandenong United, before outgunning its rivals 11-6.

With a goal virtually every five minutes, there was action aplenty in this game.

Middle Park also had an outstanding round, downing Flemington Floridia Reserves 6-0, while fellow First Division contender, Highpoint, was even more impressive in knocking over Fibremakers United 6-1.

As with Highpoint, Springvale Eagles, Middle East, Melbourne Rumania and Flamingo completed the double. Springvale Eagles obviously played well in downing Swinburne 2-1, while Middle East and Melbourne Rumania were even better in downing Bayside ATA 4-2 and Harambee 3-0, respectively.

Another club to complete the double was Montrose, which owed its 1-0 win over Berwick United to a Terry Hessid 78th minute penalty. Berwick will be spitting chips, however, over missing the penalty it was awarded four minutes later.

Three other teams which cannot be discounted are Cosmoora Spiders, North Dandenong Sparrows and Apollo United. Although all three won narrowly on penalties, they did it against class opposition.

Youth United, too, although facing a weaker opponent in SB Spurs, showed enough class in its 6-2 win to prove that it is still a threat.

Mansfield Bunney League Cup: Altona Ilinden 4, Aust. Airlines 2; ANZ Bank 1 (aet 2 pen 5), Eltham & Diamond Valley 1 (aet 2 pen 4); Melb. Rumania 3, Northcote United 2; Flamingo 3 (aet 4 pen 6), Bayside ATA 3 (aet 4 pen 5); Thomastown P, St Albans Dynamo P; Tottenham 8, Laminex 1; Footscray Utd 4, Bowater 1; Springv. Eagles 2 (aet 2 pen 4), Altona Nth, Tarxien 2 (aet 2 pen 3);

Alexander the Great W, Nippondenso 0; Sunshine Macedonia P, Flemington Floridia P; Northern Timorese 1, Highpoint 4; Middle Park 2, Epping Thistle 4; Montrose 5, Lalor United 0; Glenroy Doxa Utd 8, Kings Park Heights 3; Altona Heights 0, Middle East 5; Oakleigh City 1, Ardeer 4.

Mansfield Bunney Invitation Cup: Cosmoora Spiders 1 (pen 3), Hampton Park United 1 (pen 2); Cotton Athl. 8, Thomastown United 0; Bayside ATA 2, Middle East 4; Middle Park 6, Flemington Floridia 0; Rowville Utd P, Keysborough Blue Danube P; Swinburne 1, Springvale Eagles 2; Highpoint 6, Fibremakers Utd 1; Tottenham P, Footscray Utd P; Tottenham P, Footscray Utd P; Montrose 1, Berwick United 0; Melb. Pumas 1 (pen 2), Apollo Utd 1 (pen 3); SB Spurs 2, Youth United 6; Aust. Airl. 2 (pen 4), North Dandenong Sparrows 2 (pen 3); Dandenong Utd 6, Elwood Utd, 11; Harambee 0, Melb. Rumania 3; Oakleigh City 2, Windsor 4; Flamingo 1 (pen. 4), Glenroy Doxa Utd 1 (pen 2).

Croatia sticks in the mud

A SUPER-CHARGED Sydney Olympic trampled Melbourne Croatia in the mud for an important 3-1 win at St George Stadium.

Victory took Olympic into fourth with a game in hand as the struggle tightened for the top-five playoffs.

Olympic coach Eddie Thomson described his team's performance as superb but Croatia captain Alan Davidson said the poor ground and a swag of injuries caused its upset.

"We should have scored five goals in the first half and it's great to see the younger players coming good at the right time," Thomson said.

"We've only lost once in the last 12 matches and the team is now in a good position to finish in the top three."

Two glaring first-half errors let Olympic take the break at 2-0 after the fleet-footed Abbas Saad, Alistair Edwards and Grant Lee skipped over the heavy surface.

Melbourne Croatia had a reshuffled defence because of the absence of injured George Hannah, Paul Donnelly, Mark Talajic and Con Opasinis and the players slowed to a crawl.

Olympic midfielder Jason Polak was allowed to curl a seventh-minute free kick into the penalty area where an unmarked Robert Ironside headed the opening goal.

Eight minutes later, Saad crossed from the right where Davidson clashed with his keeper Mate Grgic in trying to clear and the ball ran loose for Grant Lee to score the second.

Quick thinking brought the third goal when David Barrett took a free kick in the 68th minute and short-passed to Edwards who pushed the ball back.

Barrett's centre to the edge of the penalty area was met by Polak whose looping header floated over Grgic's fingers to nestle in the back of the net.

MAN OF THE MATCH:

● *JASON POLAK*

"We're a ball playing team and we couldn't get moving on this ground. The result is disappointing because it means our second place is no longer secure," Davidson said.

"The injuries have come at the wrong time of the season for us and a lot now hinges on our match against Marconi."

The match started aggressively with Melbourne players penalised after Steve Georgakis and Lee had been fouled and keeper Clint Gosling suffered a possible fractured finger in a goal-mouth clash.

Olympic's possession football and quick passing stranded the visitors as at least four open goals were missed by Edwards and Saad.

Croatia striker Frances Awaritife gained a consolation goal in the 73rd minute when Davidson broke through and his cross landed in front of the Melbourne striker.

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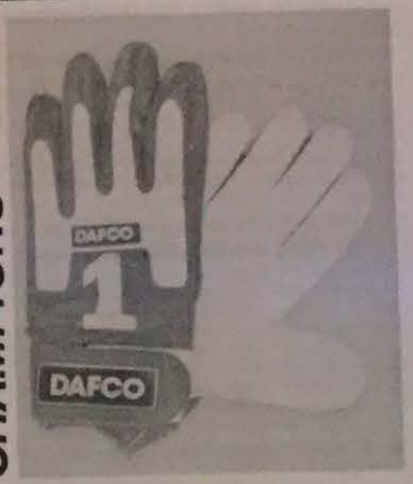

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Round Eighteen Details

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (De Amicis 58th) BULLEEN 0
At the Veneto Club, Saturday. Referee J. Santa Isabel.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Marrama - Marley, Belic, Della Rocca, Palleschi (Giandomenico 77th) - Lane, Herd, Minichiello, De Amicis - Glockner, McGrellis (Giaccherini HT). Coach Manfred Schaefer.
BULLEEN: Roccioletti - Trogrlic, Krajacic, Cunulli, Marsan - Angele, Ruccia, Avian (inj. Milosevic HT), Manou - O'Keefe, Lujic. Coach Tony Vrzina.
Ansett best player award: Herd (J) 3, Lane (J) 2, Marsan (B) 1.

ST ALBANS 1 (Kupresak 5th) MARIBYRNONG 1 (Belegrinos 51st)
At Churchill Reserve, Saturday. Referee T. Sorensen.

ST ALBANS: Vunderl - Babic, Kupresak, Bozic, Simovic - Culina, Gagula, Kuzman - Eres, Morovic, Pondeljak (Maretic 70th). Coach Branko Culina.
MARIBYRNONG: D'Antonio - Farrugia, Fleming, Innes, Pichner - Belegrinos (Romanovski 80th), Nelson, Bonk, Blicharz - De Bono (Prdnja 65th), Acevski. Coach Leszik Djielkowski.
Ansett best player award: D'Antonio (M) 3, Bonk (M) 2, Nelson (M) 1.

CAULFIELD CITY 2 (Pappas 2nd, 80th, pen.)
THOMASTOWN 2 (Higgins 12th, Griffin 65th)
At Princes Park, Saturday. Referee R. Simonis.

CAULFIELD CITY: Koletsos - Bitsonis, Dimovski, Fattore, Kountouris - Theoharous, Drakeford, Zolotarev, Aretis (Sokoluk 75th) - Pappas, Zemunik (Deligiannis 75th). Coach Jim Condilis.
THOMASTOWN: Janakievski - Mihailidis, Hennessy, Higgins, De Propertis - Ragusa, Di Martino, Athersych, Cristaldo - Sinclair (Griffin 60th), Carlora. Coach Frank McAleer.
Ansett best player award: Higgins (T) 3, Bitsonis (C) 2, Theoharous (C) 2.

NORTHCOTE CITY (J. Constantinou 28th, Harris 52nd) GREEN GULLY 0.
At John Cain Reserve, Sunday. Referee E. Venios.

NORTHCOTE CITY: Turudia - Palmaricciotti, Kouremanos, Harris, N. Constantinou - Patiniotis, Ramos, Burgess, Cymnopoulos (Panayagopoulos 75th) - Cocker, J. Constantinou (Bekiaris 80th). Coach Jim Pyrgolios.
GREEN GULLY: Sant — Hogben, Pender, Chetcuti (Farquharson 60th) — McMillan, McLelland, Wilson, Daley — Metaxes, Harrison. Coach Willie Vassallo.

CROYDON CITY 1 (McIntosh 75th) BOX HILL
At Town Park, Sunday. Referee B. Grant.

CROYDON CITY: M. Runje - Langsbury, McIntosh, Dobson, Fabrielson (inj. Brimmer HT) - van Egmond, Brown, Roodhouse - Scott, Humble, G. Runje. Coach Ian Dobson.
BOX HILL: McKinlay - Thomas, Davidson, Cooper, Dimitrelos - Hanley, McArthur, McPhee (Alexander 80th) - McAleer, Kennedy, Egan (Lavale 80th). Coach John Brown.
Ansett best player award: Roodhouse (C) 3, McArthur (BH) 2, Dobson (C) 1.

FAWKNER 2 (Raynes 35th, Marchett 89th) RINGWOOD CITY 0
At Smith Reserve, Sunday. Referee C. Bambridge.

FAWKNER: Terzini - Schipano, Terla, Patricca, Cosentino - Falcone (Marchett 75th), Ferrer (Emmanuelle 88th), Sabatino, O'Dell - Raynes, Campbell. Coach John Colangeli.
RINGWOOD CITY: Blackley - Vermiers, Nolan, Cumming, Haupt - Wemyss (Kennedy 30th, Hancock 75th), Miller, Maguire, Groenewald - Thomson, Prinsen. Coach Hans Petersen.
Ansett best player award: Schipano (F) 3, Maguire (R) 2, Thomson (R) 1.

FRANKSTON PINES 3 (Stirton, Ross) ALTONA GATE 0
At Monterey Reserve, Sunday. Referee J. Fearn.

FRANKSTON PINES: Waterman - McDonagh, Lipscombe, Weir, Buchanan - Ross, Miller, Watson, Keenan - Stirton, Dick. Coach Joe Sweeney.
ALTONA GATE: Lee - Byrne (Micevski HT), Markovski, Gagic, Momirovski - Micovski, Kebakovski (Todoroski 6th), Taseveski, Bloski - McMullen, Georgevski. Coach Bill Murray.
Ansett best player award: Keenan (F) 3, Dick (F) 2, Todevski (A) 1.

adidas

STATE LEAGUE LADDER

CROYDON C	17	10	5	2	25	6	25
JUVENTUS	17	10	5	2	31	13	25
MORWELL F	18	9	6	3	29	13	24
ST ALBANS	18	9	6	3	23	11	24
Altona Gate	18	8	5	5	32	21	21
Caulf. City	18	8	5	5	28	24	21
Northc. C	16	7	4	5	22	17	18
Thomastown	18	5	8	5	18	20	18
Green Gully	17	7	3	7	24	20	17
Bulleen	17	6	4	7	16	20	16
Frankston P	18	5	4	9	19	29	14
Fawkner	17	5	4	8	12	22	14
Ringwood C	18	3	7	8	13	32	13
Box Hill	17	3	6	8	14	23	12
Springv. C	18	2	7	9	12	19	11
Maribyrnong	18	2	3	13	10	38	7

RESERVES RESULTS

Springvale City 2 Morwell Falcons 0
Frankston Pines 2 Altona Gate 4
Caulfield City 1 Thomastown 0
Brunswick Juventus 3 Bulleen 0
St Albans 2 Maribyrnong 1
Northcote City 1 Green Gully 1

RESERVES LADDER

Altona Gate	18	12	3	3	40	23	27
Juventus	16	10	5	1	41	16	25
Green Gully	16	10	3	3	43	20	23
St Albans	18	10	3	5	34	18	23
Caulfield C	17	9	3	5	30	25	21
Morwell Falc	18	7	3	8	29	32	17
Bulleen	16	5	5	6	17	18	15
Thomastown	16	6	3	7	17	23	15
Ringw. City	16	5	4	7	24	31	14
Frankston P	17	7	0	10	26	36	14
Northcote C	13	6	1	6	25	29	13
Fawkner	16	5	3	8	21	25	13
Box Hill	16	4	5	7	22	33	13
Croydon C	16	3	5	8	21	30	11
Maribyrnong	17	2	5	10	17	30	9
Springv. C	16	3	3	10	13	30	9

SPRINGVALE CITY 0 MORWELL FALCONS 0
At Ross Reserve, Sunday. Referee A. Barnett. Sent off Wright (MF), Cautions Bissinger, Armstrong (S), Manley, McBride, Doyle (MF).

SPRINGVALE CITY: Brian - Kral, Bryden, Bissinger, Reilly (Livingstone 58th) - Findlay, Adams, Fourna, B. Keenan - Armstrong, Webster. Coach Gus Mcleod.
MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds - Bingham, Bruns, Byrne, Doyle - McBride, Nelson, O'Donnell, Cassar - Manley (Basadara 86th), Wright. Coach Bob McLachlan.
Ansett best player award: Brian (S) 3, Byrne (MF) 2, McBride (MF) 1.

Leading goalscorers

13. Pappas (Caul)

12. McMullen (Alt)

10. Morovic (St.A)

8. Egan (Juve)

7. Basara (MF)
Carfora (Thom)
Humble (Croy)
Woodall (North)

6. Wright (MF)

5. Bonk (Mar,3p)
Dick (FP)
Gagula (St.A)
Georgevski (Alt)
Incantalupo (Bull)
Metaxas (GG)
Scott (Croy)

4. Eres (St.A)
Glockner (Juve)
Harrison (GG)
Herd Juve)
McBride (MF)
Stirton (FP)
Tortevski (Alt)
van Egmond (Croy)
Watson (FP)

3. Athersych (Thom)
Bozikas (Bull)
Cocker (North)
Daley (GG)
Davie (Ring)
De Amicis (Juve)
Deligiannis (Caul)
Drakeford (Caul)
Emmanuele (Fawk)
Hanna (Fawk)
Harris (North)
Keenan (S'vale)
McAleer (BH)
McIntosh (Croy)
Nelson (Mar)
Raynes (Fawk)
Sokoluk(MF)
Theoharous (Caul)
Tsangas (North)
Warszawski (MF)

2. Aretis (Caul)
Bitsonis (Caul)
Brimmer (Croy)
Bryden (S'vale)
Byrne (MF)
Campbell (BH)
Dobson (Croy)
Egan (BH)
Farquharson (G.G)
Filipou (Caul)
Findlay (S'Vale)
Giaccherini (Juve)
Higgins (Thom)
Ilioski (Alt)
Kennedy (BH)
Klepac (Juve)
Koureemos (North)
Lane (Juve)
Lujic (Bull)
McArthur (BH)
McLelland (GG)
McMillan (GG)
Manley (MF)
Maguire (Ring)
Markovski (Alt)
Muir (Ring)
Patiniotis (North)
Patterson (Juve)
Pender (GG)
Pondeljak (St.A)
Ross (FP)
Sabatino (Fawk)
Trogrlic (Bull)
Wall (Ring)

1. Armstrong (S'vale)
Aslimovski (Alt)
Avian (Bull)
Belegrinos (Mar)
Belic (Juve)
Bothwell (FP)
Bruns (MF)
Burlak (North)
Cassar (MF)
Constantinou.J(North)
Constantinou.N(North)
Cristaldo (Thom)
Cumming (Ring)
Curulli (Bull)
Davis (Alt)
Della Rocca (Juve)
De Propertis (Thom)
Dougherty (Thom)
Elsey (GG)
Fourna (S'vale)
Griffin (Thom)
Grieaud (FP)
Han (BH)
Hennessey (Thom)
Kebarkovski (Alt)
Kupresak (St.A)
Lipiarski (Mar)
Marley (Juve)
McDonagh (FP)
McLeod (BH)
McPhee (BH)
Marchett (Fawk)
Maretic (St.A)
Micevski (Alt)
Minichiello (Juve)
Nicoski (Alt)
O'Keefe (Bull)
Radecki (FP)
Ragusa (Thom)
Raynes(Fawk)
Roodhouse (Croy)
Ristovski (Alt)
Smart (GG)
Sweeney (FP)
Thodis (North)
Thomas (BH)
Todoroski (Alt)
Verechia (Spr)
Webster (S'vale)

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Leading Votes

The best player in the Victorian State League will win a trip for two to the Gold Coast, flying Ansett, of course. When next you fly, choose Ansett and join all the other good sports who also prefer to fly Ansett.

22. Kupresak (St.A)
21. Pender (GG)
20. Drakeford (Caul)
Byrne (MF)
18. van Egmond (Croy)
16. Lane (Juve)
15. Harris (North)
Maguire (Ring)
14. Brian ('vale)
Herd (Juve)
Lujic (Bull)
McMullen (Alt)
13. Corvan (Ring)
Humble (Croy)
McIntosh (Croy)
Webster (S'vale)
12. Cooper (BH)
Dick (FP)
11. Athersych (Thom)
Krajacic (Bull)
10. Byrne (Alt)
Minichiello (Juve)
9. Bonk (Mar)
O'Dell (Fawk)
Woodall (North)
8. Brown (Croy)
Gagula (St.A)
Ilioski (Alt)
Morovic (St.A)
Nelson (MF)
Sokoluk (Caul)
7. Bisonis (Caul)
Bryden (S'vale)
Carfora (Thom)
Davies (FP)
Fattore (Caul)
Haupt (Ring)
Koureemos (North)
McArthur (BH)
O'Donnell (MF)
Ristovski (Alt)
Roodhouse (Croy)
Theoharous (Caul)
Watson (FP)
6. Basara (MF)
Belic (Juve)
Blackley (Ring)
Boric (St.A)
Czapnik (Mar)
Harrison (GG)
McKinlay (BH)
Miller (FP)
Patiniotis (North)
Simovic (St.A)
Trogrlic (Bull)
5. Cassar (MF)
Egan (Juve)
Higgins (Thom)
May (Ring)
Nelson (Mar)
Patterson (Juve)
Terzini (Fawk)
4. Adams (S'vale)
Babic (St.A)
Brimmer (Croy)
Campbell (Fawk)
Contini (Bull)
Cosentino (Fawk)
Culina (St.A)
Davidson (BH)
Dobson (Croy)
Incantalupo (Bull)
Janakievski (Thom)
Kebakovski (Alt)
McLelland (GG)
Morovic (St.A)
Pappas (Caul)
Ramos (North)
Reynolds (MF)
Sabatino (Fawk)
Schipano (Fawk)
Tortevski (Alt)
Turudia (North)
Wall (Ring)
Wilson (GG)
3. Bissinger (S'vale)
Cocker (North)
Colina (St.A)
Constantinou.J (North)
Cutler (GG)
Daley (GG)
D'Antonio (Mar)
De Propertis (Thom)
Dougherty (Thom)
Egan (BH)
Filipou (Caul)
Hennessy (Thom)
Innes (Mar)
Keenan.S (FP)
Lipiarski (Mar)
Mihos (Thom)
Palmaricciotti (North)
Patricca (Fawk)
Pondeljak (St.A)
Ragusa (Thom)
Roccioletti (Bull)
Ross (FP)
Runje.G (Croy)
Simovic (St.A)
Stirton (FP)
Todorovski (Alt)
Tortevski (Alt)
Wright (MF)

CROYDON JUVE WIN

● FALCONS, SAINTS STUMBLE

THE gripping, see-saw struggle between the top four State League Clubs continued unabated last week.

by BRIAN JAMES

A pattern seems to be emerging that sees two of them win whilst the other two drop a point or even two every week.

This week it was the turn of Juventus and Croydon to scrape home by the odd goal, whilst Morwell Falcons and St Albans were shocked by the two bottom teams, Springvale and Maribyrnong.

It's an old cliche that mud is a great leveller, but cliche or not, it has been borne out in this wettest of winters, and form has been a fleeting thing.

One important factor that makes assessing championship chances even more difficult is the matter of postponed games.

At the moment the two joint leaders, Croydon and Juventus have a game in hand on the next pair, Falcons and St Albans and they have opened up a lead of three points on the rest.

But among the rest of the pack is a dark horse, Northcote City, which has not one, but two games in hand.

Northcote has been steadily re-building and now has a team capable of beating any of the other hopefuls, on its day.

On its day, is of course the crucial point.

In this period of the year with its cold wet training nights, and the heavy, strength-sapping pitches, it's very difficult for coaches to keep part-time players fit.

Every coach you speak to nowadays can tell you the same story about injured players and it's a very lucky team at the moment that can boast that it has fielded the same team for even three weeks in succession.

Depth has become the cratchword lately, and the team that has a first team that has three or four reliable reserves to call on is the one that is going to emerge on top at the end of September.

●●●●●●●●●●

There wasn't a great deal of last-minute wheeling and dealing as the transfer season ended on June 30, as far as State League players were concerned that is.

One of the few players who moved from one State League club to another was Phil Griffin, whose transfer from Caulfield City to Thomastown was completed at the eleventh hour, on Friday, just in time for him to turn out against his old club the next day.

He scored too, after coming on as a sub!

Thomastown coach Frank McAleer, convalescing after his bad car accident was delighted.

"It was a great tonic," he said, "real Roy of the Rovers stuff, he scored with only his second touch of the ball."

Well done Griff, but was that gesture towards the Caulfield bench really necessary?

Caulfield has now acquired another visa player to replace Griffin. He is Augustin Casali, from Canberra Croatia.

I wonder if that Scotsman is still waiting for that visa he was promised a couple of months ago?

Another player who made a big impact in his first game for his new club was Steve Keenan, who went from Springvale City to Frankston Pines.

Out of the frying pan into the fire, you might say, looking at the two clubs' respective League positions, but Pines pulled off one of the surprises of the round by beating the classy Altona Gate outfit and it was all down to Keenan, said a happy Joe Sweeney, Pines' coach.

"We are not as bad as our League position might suggest," says Joe "and we're starting to put it together better now.

"Keenen made all the difference because suddenly Joe Stirton was getting the service up front that has been lacking lately and he responded with two goals.

Altona Gate coach Billy Murray was as scrupulously fair as ever about the defeat, saying that the quality of Pines' play surprised him and without making excuses, said his side got bogged down in their own mud.

But what a pity that nobody at Frankston Pines bothers to let us know what is happening there.

We promised we'd publish their match reports, but we've heard nothing. Fawkner had a good win too, which should relieve the pressure too, and we are happy to report the fact, but there is another club that hides its light under a bushel, so to speak.

I was approached recently by Fawkner coach John Colangeli (don't leave that lovely jacket lying about John, I think it's my size), who said that he never saw a Fawkner match report in this paper.

He saw one this week though, because it was written by the secretary of the beaten club, Hans Lechner, whose good sportsmanship never falters, whatever the day's outcome.

The wins by Pines and Fawkner, plus the point that Springvale took off Falcons, have put more pressure on Ringwood City and Box Hill, who are sliding towards the abyss.

Ringwood's dilemma, says Hans Lechner, is that same lack of depth that we've already written about.

We can't manage without key players like John Corvan, Paul May and John Wall, who were all out last week for one reason or other.

John Corvan returns this week and Ringwood is also waiting the arrival of a Dutch striker named Marcel de Rider from Rotterdam Neptunus.

It's the same story at Box Hill, too, says coach John Brown.

John Brown's name should be Blunt, because he doesn't beat about the bush either.

When you ask him what has gone wrong, he comes straight to the point.

"What do you expect," he says, "we haven't scored a goal for five weeks . . . that's seven and a half hours of fruitless labour.

"It's like going to work and sitting on your bum doing nothing for a whole day, what boss would tolerate that?

●●●●●●●●●●

The match of the round this weekend must be the clash between Morwell Falcons and St Albans at North Cringan.

Maybe clash is the wrong word, because neither side is over-physical and there'll be a few good players on display.

One player who won't be there though, is Falcons' Billy Wright, who was sent off in last week's fiery clash with Springvale.

Five other players were also booked as a referee in experienced at senior level struggled to keep control.

Falcons is one club though, that doesn't suffer from lack of depth because Bob McLachlan has recruited assiduously.

On the other hand, Saints' coach Branko Culina has had to struggle all this season to overcome the loss of players like Ivan Kelic, Ivan Duzel and later Mate Grgic.

However, he says he's happy with the form of Dennis the Menace, and the fly on the wall at Maribyrnong says his teammates were amazed to see how much Dennis put himself about last week.

"I've never seen him run as much as that before," said an awe-struck Kevin Innes.

●●●●●●●●●●

THIS weekend's games, with probable winners in capitals.

SATURDAY: Bulleen v Frankston Pines (draw) at the Veneto Club, **ALTONA GATE** v Fawkner at Paisley Reserve. **MORWELL FALCONS** v St Albans at North Cringan Reserve.

SUNDAY: Box Hill v **BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS** at Wembley Park, **GREEN GULLY** v Caulfield City at Gully Reserve, Maribyrnong v **NORTHCOTE CITY** at Raleigh Reserve, Ringwood City v Springvale City (draw) at Jubilee Park, **CROYDON CITY** v Thomastown at Town Park.

● *Phil Griffin, his transfer paid off straight away.*

● *Steve Keenan "Made all the difference," says Joe Sweeney.*

VICTORIAN SCOREBOARD

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VICTORIAN LEAGUE DIVISION 1

D'nong	0	V	Knox 1
W'gte	4	V	Dove'n 0
S'haw	1	V	N'wad 1
E'don	0	V	Albion 0
Oak'h	1	V	Mord 1
M.Subs	2	V	B'mead 1
M'bark	1	V	W'bee 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
M'bark	12	7	4	1	18	6	18
S'haw	14	7	3	4	22	14	17
Albion	13	5	7	1	15	8	17
Knox	13	7	1	5	20	18	15
E'don	14	5	4	5	14	17	14
Dove'n	14	6	1	7	19	24	13
Oak'h	12	4	4	4	17	13	12
Mord	12	3	6	3	16	14	12
B'mead	13	4	4	5	13	13	12
W'gte	12	4	4	4	11	13	12
W'bee	12	5	2	5	12	15	12
N'wad	11	4	3	4	18	15	11
M.Subs	12	2	6	4	9	15	10
D'nong	12	0	1	11	7	26	1

RESERVES

D'nong	0	V	Knox 1
W'gte	1	V	Dove'n 0
S'haw		V	N'wad
E'don	1	V	Albion 2
Oak'h		V	Mord
M.Subs	2	V	B'mead 1
M'bark	1	V	W'bee 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox	11	7	3	1	31	13	17
Albion	11	7	1	3	18	15	15
Dove'n	11	5	4	2	16	11	14
M'bark	12	5	3	4	26	17	13
N'wad	12	6	1	5	19	18	13
S'haw	11	4	3	4	28	21	11
B'mead	11	5	1	5	20	17	11
D'nong	12	4	3	5	13	12	11
M.Subs	11	5	1	5	13	25	11
E'don	11	5	0	6	14	15	10
Mord	11	4	2	5	21	29	10
Oak'h	11	1	5	5	20	21	7
W'bee	11	3	1	7	15	24	7
W'gte	10	3	0	7	14	30	6

DIVISION 2 FIRSTS

Geel	1	V	B'ton 1
Nav.C	0	V	N.Geel 3
R'wood	2	V	Pt Mel 2
Keilor	3	V	C'ton H 1
Y'ville	0	V	Don Rv 1
H'berg	1	V	Coburg 3
R'mond	2	V	S'bury 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor	14	10	2	2	26	13	22
N.Geel	14	8	3	3	31	17	19
Pt Mel	13	7	3	3	28	21	17
Geel	14	7	3	4	21	20	17
B'ton	13	6	4	3	20	15	16
R'wood	14	6	4	4	25	23	16
Nav.C	14	6	2	6	25	20	14
R'mond	13	7	0	6	26	24	14
Coburg	13	5	4	4	20	18	14
C'ton H	13	5	2	6	17	17	12
Don Rv	14	3	5	6	11	17	11
H'berg	13	3	1	9	18	30	7
S'bury	13	2	3	8	11	24	7
Y'ville	13	0	2	11	6	26	2

RESERVES

Geel		V	B'ton
Nav.C	1	V	N.Geel 3
R'wood	1	V	Pt Mel 3
Keilor	0	V	C'ton H 0
Y'ville	0	V	Don Rv 1
H'berg	1	V	Coburg 1
R'mond	2	V	S'bury 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
B'ton	11	10	1	0	31	8	21
C'ton H	12	9	2	1	37	14	20
Keilor	11	8	1	2	26	16	17
N.Geel	13	8	0	5	30	20	16
Pt Mel	12	7	1	4	32	18	15
R'wood	13	7	0	6	35	30	14
Don Rv	12	5	1	6	29	21	11
R'mond	12	5	1	6	20	35	11
Nav.C	12	5	0	7	22	22	10
H'berg	12	3	3	6	17	23	9
Geel	11	3	2	6	26	25	8
S'bury	14	2	2	10	21	33	6
Coburg	13	2	2	9	14	42	6
Y'ville	12	3	0	9	14	47	6

LEAGUE 3 FIRSTS

C'sea	0	V	Bell Pk 0
S'vale	1	V	S'ford 4
Elt/D.V	2	V	M'bin 0
Holl Pk	4	V	Y'ourn 0
M'ton	2	V	C'inda 2
Altona	1	V	H'thon 1
C/Geel	0	V	Lalor 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bell Pk	14	11	2	1	34	9	24
C'sea	14	8	4	2	30	15	20
C/geel	14	8	4	2	23	9	20
Holl Pk	14	8	0	6	30	18	16
Elt/d.V	14	6	4	4	21	16	16
S'ford	14	6	3	5	29	18	15
M'ton	14	5	5	4	16	14	15
M'bin	14	5	3	6	16	19	13
C'inda	14	4	4	6	19	26	12
Y'ourn	14	3	5	6	14	24	11
Lalor	13	4	3	6	12	27	11
H'thon	13	2	4	7	17	24	8
S'vale	14	1	5	8	12	29	7
Altona	14	2	2	10	16	41	6

RESERVES

C'sea	2	V	Bell Pk 3
S'vale	2	V	S'ford 3
Elt/D.V	4	V	M'bin 3
Holl Pk	4	V	Y'ourn 1
M'ton	2	V	C'inda 1
Altona	1	V	H'thorn 1
C/Geel	1	V	Lalor 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
M'bin	13	9	2	2	48	15	20
Elt/d.V	11	10	0	1	35	15	20
S'ford	14	9	1	4	36	17	19
Bell Pk	13	8	2	3	22	16	18
Altona	14	7	2	5	27	21	16
C'sea	12	7	0	5	30	25	14
C'inda	13	6	1	6	30	36	13
S'vale	12	5	2	5	25	23	12
Holl Pk	13	5	2	6	25	30	12
Lalor	13	3	4	6	20	23	10
C/geel	13	4	1	8	24	25	9
H'thorn	12	3	3	6	17	25	9
M'ton	14	2	1	11	13	36	5
Y'ourn	13	1	1	11	9	54	3

DIVISION 4 FIRSTS

Boronia	3	V	Bent 2
Regent	2	V	FTGully 0
W'town	1	V	L'warr 2
Keysbro	0	V	Brun/Iv 1
K'ingal	0	V	P'vale 1
More.Pk	4	V	R'anna 0
Cl'ton	2	V	Hamlyn 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bent	14	10	3	1	37	14	23
Cl'ton	14	11	1	2	40	20	23
Hamlyn	13	8	2	3	34	22	18
Brun/Iv	14	6	5	3	20	11	17
Regent	14	7	3	4	19	12	17
L'warr	14	6	3	5	19	14	15
More.Pk	14	6	2	6	27	24	14
K'ingal	14	6	1	7	23	20	13
R'anna	13	4	4	5	18	28	12
P'vale	14	4	4	6	11	23	12
Boronia	14	2	5	7	12	28	9
W'town	14	2	4	8	13	28	8
Ftgully	14	2	3	9	10	24	7
Keysbro	14	1	4	9	10	25	6

RESERVES

Boronia	2	V	Bent 2
Regent	3	V	FTGully 1
W'town	2	V	L'warr 4
Keysbro	0	V	Brun/Iv 5
K'ingal	3	V	P'vale 0
More.Pk	2	V	R'anna 2
Cl'ton	1	V	Hamlyn 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brun/Iv	14	8	4	2	32	15	20
Cl'ton	13	9	1	3	22	15	19
L'warr	14	6	5	3	26	18	17
Regent	12	5	5	2	21	17	15
Bent	13	4	6	3	31	28	14
Keysbro	14	5	3	6	23	29	13
W'town	14	6	0	8	20	27	12
Hamlyn	11	5	1	5	21	18	11
Ftgully	13	4	3	6	21	21	11
R'anna	13	4	3	6	20	25	11
K'ingal	12	4	2	6	17	16	10
More.Pk	12	3	4	5	20	22	10
Boronia	13	3	3	7	16	24	9
P'vale	12	4	0	8	14	29	8

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Malvern	0	V	S'vale 3
E Geel	1	V	Prahran 2
B'wick	0	V	W Mead 2
N.Sun	5	V	Oak.Sub 1
W Vale	3	V	S Yarra 0
Mav'ly	2	V	Melton 2
Berwick	3	V	Mossf' 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
S'vale	13	11	2	0	30	9	24
Prahran	14	7	6	1	34	24	20
Berwick	13	9	0	4	25	15	18
W Vale	13	7	3	3	25	15	17
W Mead	13	8	1	4	26	20	17
N.Sun	13	7	1	5	33	23	15
Oak.Sub	12	6	2	4	26	23	14
B'wick	12	4	3	5	17	20	11
Melton	14	3	5	6	24	28	11
Malvern	12	4	2	6	15	24	10
Mossf'	14	3	3	8	16	24	9
Mav'ly	13	3	1	9	16	28	7
E Geel	12	2	2	8	14	27	6
S Yarra	14	1	1	12	11	32	3

RESERVES

Malvern	3	V	S'vale 1
E Geel	1	V	Prahran 1
B'wick	2	V	W Mead 2
N.Sun	2	V	Oak.Sub 0
W Vale	1	V	S Yarra 0
Mav'ly	1	V	Melton 3
Berwick	1	V	Mossf' 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Prahran	14	10	2	2	40	12	22
N.Sun	12	9	1	2	34	13	19
W Mead	12	8	2	2	26	20	18
Malvern	12	7	2	3	34	26	16
Melton	14	5	5	4	21	16	15
S'vale	11	6	2	3	18	14	14
W Vale	11	4	4	3	16	13	12
Mossf'	14	4	3	7	27	28	11
Berwick	12	3	5	4	13	18	11
S Yarra	13	3	5	5	23	29	11
B'wick	11	2	4	5	15	23	8
E Geel	12	1	4	7	16	28	6
Mav'ly	13	2	1	10	14	39	5
Oak.Sub	11	1	2	8	9	27	4

DIVISION 2 FIRSTS

Cranb'n	3	V	Monash 0
F.Hill	0	V	F'kston 0
Br'tons	0	V	Altona Eas 1
Glenroy	0	V	S Dandy 3
Port Un	3	V	Ball't 2
S S'vale	1	V	Ascot 1
Uni Melb	2	V	Lalor 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona	14	10	2	2	22	16	22
F.Hill	14	8	5	1	33	13	21
S S'val	14	8	5	1	28	10	21
S Dandy	13	8	1	4	34	19	17
Cranb'n	14	6	5	3	25	14	17
Ascot	13	5	6	2	21	11	16
Uni Mel	14	5	5	4	17	20	15
Br'tons	13	4	5	4	20	17	13
Port Un	14	4	3	7	21	32	11
Glenroy	14	4	2	8	17	27	10
Ball't	14	3	4	7	17	28	10
Lalor	13	1	5	7	15	29	7
F'kston	14	1	5	8	12	28	7
Monash	14	1	3	10	9	27	5

RESERVES

Cranb'n	1	V	Monash 0
F.Hill	4	V	F'kston 0
Br'tons	0	V	Altona Eas 3
Glenroy	1	V	S Dandy 3
Port Un	1	V	Ball't 1
S S'vale	1	V	Ascot 2
Uni Melb	3	V	Lalor 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Uni Mel	14	10	2	2	36	14	22
Altona	13	7	5	1	28	16	19
S Dandy	12	7	2	3	29	16	16
F'kston	14	7	2	5	25	21	16
Ascot	13	6	3	4	22	17	15
Ball't	14	5	4	5	24	15	14
F.Hill	13	5	3	5	23	26	13
Cranb'n	13	3	6	4	16	22	12
Lalor	13	4	3	6	29	27	11
S S'val	13	4	3	6	17	23	11
Glenroy	13	5	1	7	21	30	11
Br'tons	13	3	2	8	16	29	8
Monash	13	2	3	8	13	27	7
Port Un	11	2	3	6	14	30	7

DIVISION 3 FIRSTS

Ringw'd	1	V	Monbulk 1
R'dale	1	V	Mitchan 4
Lyndale	3	V	Med.Pk. 1
Carrum	1	V	Kew 2
Altona	2	V	Bataan 0
Fitzroy	0	V	Brandon 1
W'tirna	5	V	Nth Clayto 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lyndale	14	10	1	3	35	17	21
Fitzroy	14	9	3	2	28	17	21
Brandon	13	8	3	2	24	12	19
Med.Pk.	14	7	4	3	23	18	18
Kew	14	7	4	3	20	15	18
W'tirna	14	6	3	5	35	21	15
Mitchan	14	7	1	6	27	31	15
Altona	14	5	4	5	13	16	14
Bataan	14	2	7	5	23	26	11
Monbulk	14	3	4	7	12	13	10
Carrum	13	2	5	6	18	22	9
Ringw'd	13	1	7	5	16	24	9
R'dale	12	2	2	8	17	36	6
Nth Cla	13	1	2	10	14	37	4

RESERVES

Ringw'd	0	V	Monbulk 2
R'dale	2	V	Mitchan 1
Lyndale	7	V	Med.Pk. 1
Carrum	0	V	Kew 0
Altona	2	V	Bataan 1
Fitzroy	2	V	Brandon 2
W'tirna	5	V	N.Clayton 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lyndale	14	10	1	3	51	26	21
Monbulk	14	9	2	3	35	19	20
W'tirna	12	9	1	2	35	17	19
Kew	14	7	4	3	32	19	18
Brandon	12	7	3	2	29	13	17
R'dale	13	7	3	3	27	20	17
Bataan	12	7	2	3	36	22	16
Med.Pk.	13	6	1	6	35	32	13
Altona	14	5	1	8	29	43	11
Carrum	13	4	2	7	33	42	10
Mitchan	13	3	3	7	20	26	9
Ringw'd	13	2	0	11	16	34	4
N.Clayt	12	2	0	10	12	41	4
Fitzroy	13	1	1	11	21	57	3

AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION 1

E Rich	4	V	L'robe 2
Balwyn	8	V	Oak U 5
North U	0	V	Keilor 1
Nav.Wand		V	Bye
Phillip	1	V	Coll'wd 0
Diggers	4	V	H'thorn 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
E Rich	12	11	1	0	36	13	23
H'thorn	12	8	3	1	39	18	19
Nav.Wan	12	6	3	3	32	21	15
Balwyn	11	6	2	3	39	25	14
Phillip	11	4	5	2	20	21	13
Oak U	13	3	7	3	28	32	13
Coll'wd	12	3	3	6	16	24	9
North U	12	3	3	6	13	26	9
Diggers	11	2	3	6	19	25	7
L'robe	12	0	5	7	21	33	5
Keilor	12	1	1	10	11	36	3
Bye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESERVES

E Rich	7	V	L'robe U 3
Balwyn	2	V	Oak U 0
North U	3	V	Keilor 0
Nav.Wand		V	Bye
Phillip		V	Coll'wd
Diggers	1	V	H'thon 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Balwyn	11	9	1	1	36	13	19
Coll'wd	10	8	0	2	39	16	16
Nav.Wan	11	7	2	2	27	13	16
E Rich	12	6	3	3	48	37	15
Phillip	10	4	5	1	22	15	13
North U	12	3	4	5	14	26	10
Diggers	11	3	3	5	30	33	9
Oak U	11	3	2	6	26	29	8
L'robe	12	4	0	8	23	37	8
H'thon	12	0	6	6	18	35	6
Keilor	12	1	2	9	16	45	4
Bye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIVISION 2 FIRSTS

D Scots	6	V	Yarra U 1
Mel.Uni	8	V	C'corde 0
E.Hills		V	Maccabi
Upfield	3	V	Furlan 2
D.Valley	1	V	R.M.I.T. 0
I'city	0	V	C'well 6 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarra U	14	10	1	3	55	27	21
C'well	13	10	0	3	61	25	20
D Scots	13	9	2	2	42	20	20
Mel.Uni	13	9	1	3	43	12	19
Upfield	14	8	3	3	52	24	19
D.Valle	13	3	6	4	24	21	12
Furlan	13	4	4	5	28	29	12
E.Hills	13	4	3	6	32	33	11
Maccabi	12	4	3	5	31	35	11
R.M.I.T	14	3	4	7	33	47	10
I'city	14	2	1	11	13	40	5
C'corde	14	0	0	14	10	111	0

Contd. on page 13

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JUNIOR NEWS

OWING to the Regional Championships and the National Youth Championships in Canberra, there are no Junior results or Tables this week.

Revised Under/12, Western B and Under/16 North West A.

Regional Championship tables for U/12, U/13, U/14, and U/16.

Junior Cup draws for U/11, U/12, U/13, U/14, U/16 and U/18.

UNDER 11 Saturday July 29. Spv.Utd or Keilor v Spv. City A; Peninsula v Sunshine Hts. or Lalor; Frankston Utd v Fawkner; Cranbourne v Waverley Utd; North Reservoir v East Geelong; Croydon City v South Dandenong; Mooroolbark v Frankston Pines, BU Juve. v Sunsh. Park.

UNDER 12 kick off 11 am Thomastown v Regent; North Geelong v Bulleen; Prest. or Sth. Springv. v Waverley Utd or SSGX, Nth. Reservoir v Sunsh. Hts. or H'berg Utd; Keon Park v North Sunshine or Lalor Utd; Frankston Utd v Lalor; Mitchem Utd A v Melton; Seaford A v BU Juventus.

UNDER 13 kick off 12 noon: Melb. G v Preston B or BU Juve.; Waverley C v Springv. City A; Preston A v Altona East; Regent v Fawkner; Western Subs or Clarinda v Cranbourne; Frankston Utd v Essendon C; Mitcham Utd v St Albans or Karingal; Nth. Sunsh. or Altona Gate v SSGX or Brunsw. City.

UNDER 14 kick off 1.15 pm: Parkmore v Forest Hill; Melb. Cr. v North Reservoir; Frankston P v Langwarrin; Peninsula v Preston; North Geelong v Sunshine Park; Brunsw. City or Oakleigh v Fawkner; Springv' City v Waverley C; SSGX v Williamstown.

UNDER 15 Saturday 29th July — kick off 2.45 pm: Mooroolbark v Waverley Utd; Malv. or Clarinda v Yarrav. or Hawthorn; West. Subs or Prahran SL v Clifton Hill; SSGX or Nth. Geelong vH'berg Utd; Berwick City v Preston; Melb. C v South Springv; Fawkner v Oakleigh A; Springv. C A v Caulfield City.

UNDER 16 kick off 2.45: Geelong City v Femtree Gully or SSGX; Bulleen v Oakleigh; Sth. Springv. v Caulf. City; Frankst. Utd v New Coll Utd; Thomastown v Northern Utd; Altona Gate v Waverley Utd; Melb. Cr v Springv. Utd.

UNDER 18 kick off 12.30: Geelong City v North Geelong; Sth. Melb. Hellas v Croydon City; Brighton v East Richmond; Mordialloc v Fawkner.

VSF Junior Cup draw for Saturday July 29 1989 (Second Round).

JULY 2nd UNDER 12

WESTERN B

Melb. City	7	5	2	0	17-4 12
Nth. Sunshine	6	4	1	1	19-3 9
SSGX	6	4	0	2	11-12 8
Western Subs.	6	3	1	2	8-12 7
West. Vle	5	2	2	1	9- 7 6
Altona Gate	6	1	2	3	5- 4 4
Bruntons	8	1	1	6	8-23 3
Sydney Pk.	6	0	1	5	2-14 1

JULY 2nd UNDER 16

North-West A

Melb. Cr	8	5	2	1	26-15 12
Regent	6	3	2	1	17- 9 8
M'land Mdws	5	3	1	1	11- 4 7
G'lng City	6	2	1	3	14-22 5
Nthn. Utd	4	1	2	1	6- 4 3
Albion	5	1	1	3	16-22 3
Syd. Pk	6	0	0	6	6-20 0

League standing of the two 8 team redrawn leagues as at 2 July 1989.

Regional Championships final placings.

UNDER 12

North	8	4	3	1	9	4	11
East	8	3	3	2	6	4	9
Central	8	4	1	3	7	6	9
West	8	2	3	3	6	6	7
Pen	8	1	2	5	2	10	4

UNDER 13

North	8	8	0	0	43	4	16
West	8	5	0	3	24	17	10
East	8	4	0	4	14	20	8
Cent	8	2	0	6	11	35	4
Pen	8	1	0	7	7	20	2

UNDER 14

East	8	3	5	0	11	6	11
Cent	8	3	4	1	13	9	10
West	8	3	3	2	13	12	9
North	8	2	3	3	9	9	7
Pen	8	0	3	5	2	12	3

UNDER 15

West	6	5	-	1	17	10	
North	6	4	1	1	11	9	
Central	6	2	1	3	8	5	
East	6	1	1	4	5	3	
Peninsula	6	1	1	4	20	3	

Junior Club Secretaries — to apply for Hat-trick Diplomas — See Page 2

CONGRATULATIONS VICTORIAN YOUTH

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS FOR A RECORD THIRD TIME IN SUCCESSION

● *VICTORIAN YOUTH XI 1989*
Mr Tim White, Dean Faic, Adam Inglese, Frank Talia, Joe Rados, Vitale Ferrante, Kris Trajanovski, Joe Doherty (team manager), Tony Dunkerly (coach), Hus Skendovic, Laurence Kindter, Spiros Kollevris, Sunny Severn, Louis Bekaris, Jason Koliba.
Missing: Willie Hastie, Robert Spasevski, Robert Stojevski, Dennis Mihos.

HOW YOUR TEAM FARED

VICTORIAN YOUTH MAKES IT THREE IN A ROW

THE search to find the talent to represent Australia in the World Youth Cup of 1991 began in earnest last week, with the staging of the National Youth Championships in Canberra.

Recent wet weather on the East Coast posed some major problems for the grounds manager but, with the co-operation of the AIS, everything was sorted out and a very successful tournament resulted.

The eight States were divided into two groups, with Victoria, NSW, NNSW and the ACT comprising Group A and SA, WA, Queensland and Tasmania making up Group B.

The opening match of the championship saw old rivals Victoria and New South Wales pitted against each other.

The star-studded NSW combination was a nominal favourite, but Victoria came out on top, winning 2-0, a result that heartened not only the Victorian camp, but all the other States as well.

The other opening day match, between NNSW and ACT ended in a scoreless draw.

WA got off to a fine start in Group B, handing out a 4-0 thrashing to a hapless Tasmania and South Australian looked very workmanlike in beating Queensland 1-0.

Queensland was unfortunate enough to lose its goalkeeper with a badly broken nose during the game.

He was operated on immediately afterwards and took no further part in the competition.

A much-improved display by NSW on the second day saw it down ACT 2-0, and then Victoria found itself battling hard to defeat NNSW.

NNSW had a superb first half and led deservedly 1-0 at the break.

In the second half, the Vics rose to the challenge and fought back well to win 2-0 with goals from Trajanovski and Ferrante.

South Australia impressed in the second match of the day, beating Tasmania after surviving the shock of an early Tasmania goal.

In the other Group B game, WA and Queensland battled to a rather disappointing 1-1 draw after Queensland frittered away its chances after good lead-up work.

The meant that approaching the third day, Victoria and South Australia were assured of semi-final berths and the tussle was on to decide the other two contenders.

Victoria and ACT produced the match of the day with the Vics running out 5-4 winners.

The Vic heroes were Chris Trajanovski, who grabbed a hat-trick and Lou Bekiaris who scored the other two goals.

New South continued its improvement with a sparkling 3-0 win over Northern New South, the highlight of the game being David Seaf's hat-trick.

In Group B, Queensland and Tasmania battled a 2-2 draw, whilst South Australia went down to its first defeat, losing 4-1 to West Australia.

However, South Australia still qualified for the semi-final and was drawn to play Victoria in the Bruce Stadium.

Victoria started off badly and went a goal down after half an hour.

Worse was to come when Sonny Sevin was mysteriously penalised for what seemed a perfectly good tackle and SA scored from the free kick.

But the Vics wouldn't surrender and drew level with goals by Trajanovski and Bekiaris.

The full-time score was 2-2 and so it was on to extra-time.

Victoria got completely on top in the overtime period and goals by Kindtner and Sonny Sevin saw it through safely to the final.

As was expected, the improving New South Wales proved too strong for WA in the other semi, winning also 4-2 and so the stage was set for another battle royal between the traditional rivals.

The first half was a ding-dong affair until just before half-time when Lou Bekiaris sprinted past his marker and crossed for Lorenz Kindtner to put the Vics ahead.

Midway through the second half, NSW centre-back George Georgopoulos was sent for a late tackle, but undismayed, NSW fought back to level in the 75th minute.

Jason Kaliba mis-hit a back pass to Vic goalkeeper Frank Talia and David Seal swooped in to score.

And so it was on to extra time and then, after no further scoring, penalties had to be taken.

Both 'keepers saved a penalty apiece and after the regulation five tries each, the score stood at 4-4.

In the sudden-death sequel, both sides scored three times to bring the score to 7-7.

Then up came goalkeeper Frank Talia, who scored for Victoria and then in a real Roy of the Rovers performance stopped the next NSW attempt and the Vics had won a pulse-pounding encounter 8-7.

It was an historic victory for Victoria, which thus became the first State to win the title three years in succession.

David Seal was voted Player of the Tournament and Youth coach Les Scheinflug picked a national squad, the names of whom will be released by the ASF at a later date.

The finishing order was 1. Victoria, 2. NSW, 3. WA, 4. SA, 5. Qld, 6. Tas, 7. NNSW, 8. ACT.

— TIM WHITE

GEELONG SOCCER

By ROY HAY

ONLY one Geelong team managed to take full points from its match last weekend, but at least two have strengthened their promotion chances.

North Geelong signed Gary Cutler from Green Gully efore the deadline and he made his debut in the 3-0 trouncing of Waverley City at Gardiner's Creek Reserve.

He had an excellent match at sweeper, combing well with Ivan Sholjko, and was the springboard from which North launched many of its attacks which resulted in goals by Danny Ward, Sveto Rastock, and Colin Cooper.

Geelong had planned a big night match against Brighton at Western Oval, but it had to be switched back to Stead Park because of the condition of the football ground. The points were finally shared in a one-all draw, with David Fleming getting Geelong's goal.

First and second on the ladder in Division Three, Bell Park and Chelsea fought out a tough no-scoring draw at Edithvale.

Park had most of the play until Sam McNeilage was sent off six minutes into the second half, but even then Chelsea appeared to be more determined to hang on to a point than go all out for the winner against 10 men.

Danny Ortiz hit some beautiful diagonal cross balls to his forwards and Gary Walker's seige-gun goal kicks were always a threat to the Chelsea defence.

Mark Linney had the game's best chance when Tommy Cumming set him up, but the big striker's shot went over keeper Marsh's head and the cross bar.

P. Fric should have done better with an early opportunity for Chelsea but hit the ball straight at Gary Walker.

This was a good result in the end for Park, which was without George Watters and Slobodan Jovanovic.

Corio-Geelong United retained third position by drawing 0-0 at home to Ialor United. It was one of those days when the ball would not go in for the Geelong team, with its closest attempt being a volley by Rod van der Chys which the keeper parried and Paul den Ouden hammered the rebound straight back at him.

Hamlyn Rangers lost somd ground, going down 2-0 to Clayton in Division Four.

East Geelong failed to reverse an early-season defeat by Prahran going down at home 2-1 in Provisional League Division One. Prahran led 2-0 with its individual and team skills giving East the runaround ea rly on. East fought back and Done Laovski fired in a thirty metre effort which just dipped under the cross-bar.

East kept pressing after this and almost grabbed an equaliser as Stiven Stojanoski headed down a corner kick and Lou Temelkovski struck the post, with the ball re-bounding to safety as the final whistle blew.

In Provisional League Division Two, Brintons conceded a single goal to St Kilda?East Altona but it was enough to negate all the home team's territorial dominance. Striker Paul Bendar did the damage as he picked up a clearing header from Paul Mills and rifled it back into the net.

STATE LEAGUE

CROYDON CITY 1
BOX HILL 0

CROYDON found Box Hill's determined defensive play and well-executed offside trap hard to beat in a rather drab first half at Croydon Park.

Overeagerness by the Croydon forward line saw the linesman's flag go up, and although Croydon seemed to have the advantage the points were not easily obtained.

Only on two occasions did Croydon really threaten, one from a scorching free kick from Nick Van Egmond, and another from a remarkable headed attempt by Darren Scott, who rose above a pack of players in the goal mouth, following a corner, to head against the bar, and then outjumped his opponents to nod the ball home, but the ball again hit the bar and trickled over the line for a goal kick.

Both teams came out in the second half with a changed attitude with attack in mind, which made the game a better spectacle.

Steve Brimmer came on as a substitute for John Gabrielson, who had received a nasty knock on the ankle and added thrust to Croydon's right wing.

A fine solo run into the Box Hill area saw his angled shot deflected by goalie McKinlay for a corner.

The well-flighted corner kick was headed bnack by Andy Humble to the waiting McIntosh, who headed true and hard into the Box Hill goal.

Box Hill then went on the offensive and, on several occasions, made space for itself, but in the end it was Croydon's defenders who were able to cope and Mirko Runje had little trouble in dealing with anything that came his way.

The win put Croydon at the top of the state league but only on goal difference with pressure on the team for this week's home game against Thomastown.

— J.H.

NORTHCOTE CITY 2
GREEN GULLY 0

NORTHCOTE City climbed two places on the ladder as a result of another convincing performance at John Cain Reserve on Saturday.

In a match that was always going to be hard fought between two evenly-placed terms, it was Northcote on its home turf which was the more impressive and deserved the two points.

Northcote went 1-0 up after 28 minute and deserved the two points.

Northcote went 1-0 up after 28 minutes through Jim Constantinou following a dreadful mistake by Gully defender Steve Checuti, who was caught with the ball in the last line of defence.

Constantinour obbed Chetcuti and cooling slotted the ball home past advancing Gully keeper Charlie Sant.

The first half continued to produce scoring opportunities. Pedro, Ramos, Peter Cocker and John Burgess all had good attempts, but the score remained the same until the interval.

After the break, Gully adopted a more attacking mode and looked quite dangerous at times. That was until the 52nd minute when Northcote's Paul Harris rose high at the far post to meet a Burgess corner to head home into the roof of the net.

This stung Gully into action. With John Metaxis and defender David Hogben getting more involved, the Gully outfit applied great pressure for the remaining 20 minutes, but full credit must go to Northcote's back four in keeping Gully at bay.

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THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL, THE SENSATIONAL NEW ITALIAN BOOT — SCARPE SPORTIVE
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HOW YOUR TEAM FARED FROM P.12

FAWKNER 2 RINGWOOD CITY 0

A DRAW would have been the right score after 90 minutes of battle for survival in the State League at the Smith Reserve in Fawkner.

But once again complete failure to score goals signalled the third consecutive defeat for Ringwood City.

On the slippery surface both teams played poorly, which showed why they are on the lower half of the table.

Ringwood was without the services of John Corvan, Paul May, Paul Muir and John Wall and, with no capable reserves, becomes an ordinary team. This resulted in a goal for Fawkner in the 35th minute when W. Raynes was left unmarked in the penalty box and easily headed in a high pass from Schipano to give Fawkner a valuable 1-0 lead before half time.

Ringwood came back strongly in the second half but its wings were too weak to cause any havoc in the Fawkner defence and the high balls through the middle were an easy prey for the tall Fawkner defenders.

Stuart Thomson moved well as centre-forward for Ringwood but with no support from the wings he was completely isolated. Stuart showed class at times and his bullet-like shot after passing three opponents certainly deserved better than hitting the bar.

Fawkner sealed the game just one minute from the final whistle when substitute A. Marchett easily beat the Ringwood defence to give Fawkner a 2-0 victory.

●●●●●●●●●●

SPRINGVALE CITY 0 MORWELL FALCONS 0

IN a scoreless draw at Ross Reserve, referee Alan Barnett had a torrid time handing out five yellow cards and sending New Zealander Billy Wright in for an early shower.

Springvales 'keeper Robert Brian was the hero of the first half and pulled off dramatic saves from Billy Wright's two early shots.

Ron Manley almost had one on the board after turning well and surprising the Vales' defence but the shot was smothered by Brian and the rebounding ball was cleared by Kral.

Mark Bissinger was sticking to Wright like glue and was tackling very hard, which had Wright complaining bitterly to the referee.

Bissinger was first to get the yellow for a late tackle on Wright just before the break.

Tempers started to flare early in the second half and Ron Manley was booked for throwing the ball at Hugh Findlay.

Jimmy McBride lost his temper and said something that Mr Barnett didn't like so his name was also entered into the book. While all this was going on Stan Webster was getting on with things and kept dashing through Falcon's defence.

On one such occasion Webster broke through, sent the ball to Richie Armstrong then set himself up nicely for the pass that came just that little bit too quickly and Webster pushed the ball into the net with his arm.

The Springvale supporters wen twild for a second then realising that the goal had been disallowed they continued to shout all sorts of abuse to Billy Wright who, by this time, had been having lots of things to say to the referee.

Richie Armstrong was next to go into the book for a foul tackle on Wright then, from the free kick, Wright was just a bit off line with a header that bounced off the crossbar.

Jeff Doyle brought Stan Webster to ground and the referee judged the tackle to be late so his name joined the list.

With 10 minutes to go Wright received his marching orders when he tackled Doug Bryden.

With Falcons down to 10 men, Springvale tried to take control but still kept five or six defending at the back.

Ron Manley clashed with Robert Brian that left Manley prone and forced to leave the ground.

For about five minutes Falcons were playing with only nine men until Darko Basara got warmed up and took to the field, however with only a couple of minutes to go the scoreboard remained unchanged and the points were shared.

— E.H.

●●●●●●●●●●

DIVISION THREE

ELTHAM-DIAMOND VALLEY 2 (briggs (76m) Johanssen (85m) MOORABBIN CITY 0

VALLEY took the points in a game which was pretty ordinary until the last 20 minutes.

The heavy surface took its toll on both sides but Valley finished a shade stronger and scored both its goals in the last quarter of an hour.

There was little to excite the spectators in the first half. Both sides played long balls up the middle and with both defences in good touch the forwards didn't have much chance to show their wares.

Mick Giacomi in the centre of the home defence won everything that came his way, while Coulter and Gadsby at the other end stitched up the Valley attack.

The closest anyone came to scoring was in the 22nd minute when Valley's keeper was caught off his line, but Hewitt shot over from 6 metres.

The second half continued in the same way as the first. Moorabbin was unlucky not to score after 52 minutes, then moments later, a Brian Coyle header was kicked off the line with Mur AWOL.

Alan Kerr came on for Steve atkins and his presence had an immediate effect on Valley and it soon had control of the game, but had to wait until the 76th minute for a goal.

Chris Briggs picked up a loose ball 25 metres out and hit an immaculate shot, low into the corner of the net.

Nine minutes later Peter Cirka played a lovely long ball, down the left, Johanssen outsepd the visitors' defence and slipped the ball past Mur to complete the scoring and give Valley the two points.

Despite a three week break, Valley reserves took on the league leaders and got home by the odd goal in seven, to record their tenth successive win.

— G.K.

●●●●●●●●●●

DIVISION FOUR

CLAYTON 2 HAMLYN RANGER S 0

CLAYTON'S return game against Hamlyn was looked on as the battle for second position on the ladder.

And both teams were not prepared to give anything away.

The first 15 minutes was very even as both defences were tight.

Well's for Clayton was strong in the midfield and at the 27 minute mark from 20 metres out hit a rocket-like shot to give Hamlyn keeper nydam no chance and put Clayton into the lead.

Strong play from Calenda and Pallesch created chances. But Hamlyn held out.

In the second half both teams created chances and there were near misses at both ends of the field.

Walmsley and Brown were looking dangerous for Hamlyn but strong play by Clayton's Costabile Broxham and Pansino keep them out. Ten minutes before the end from a bad pass back Palleschi took the opportunity and scored Clayton's goal.

Best Players: Clayton — Calenda, Costable, Pansino; Hamlyn — Quilfoyle, Brown, Munro.

●●●●●●●●●●

Provisional League DIVISION TWO

From a game contested on a "nightmare" surface, South Dandenong took home the points but it was never as easy as the scor emight suggest.

The visitors' goal had a "charmed life" on a few occasions and it was only late in the game that Dandenong put paid to any ope of Glenroy salvaging a draw.

South took a one-goal lead five minutes from the interval. A Sepetci right wing corner was headed on by Rodriguez. Sam Elmazovski was nicely placed at the far post to score from close in.

When defender Simsek failed to cut out a right wing cross, Theologou should have levelled the score but his half-volley went wide.

There was no question about a penalty decision 13 minutes into the second half. A Sepetci cross was blatantly handled, head high, by Bevanda. Glenroy survived this one when Jusic's spot kick hit the crossbar.

A Satlik free kick had the South defence in all sorts of trouble but they finally scrambled the ball to safety.

Dandenong's second goal came after 78 minutes. Bitsaya failed to cleanly collect a Jusic free kick and the loose ball was tucked home by Sam Elmazovski. Zsembery looked certain to score but a desperate tackle from Jusic clea red his lines from only two metres out. Looking suspiciously in an offside position, San Elmazovski was fouled seven minutes from full time.

Jim Elmazovski's penalty was placed far too close to Bitsaya and the goalkeeper all but saved it crossing the line.

— A.H.

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AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

PHILLIP INSTITUTE 1 COLINGWOOD CITY 0

PLAYING on an extremely heavy surface due to rain the previous night, traditional rivals Phillip Institute and Collingwood City put in an entertaining game which saw the home side win after a late goal.

Although the reserve game was cancelled so as to protect the ground, the senior contest quickly turned into a mud bath as both teams went in hard for the ball.

In the initial stages the PIT defence was well held together by their sweeper Con Tordanidis, who kept the number of mistakes to a minimum.

But in typical fashion Collingwood maintained strong pressure with its precise passing and running off the ball.

It was this type of play which nearly saw it take the lead at the 35 minute mark. A tremendous diving effort by PIT goalkeeper Sam Campisi saw the ball go wide and so the scoreline was 0-0 at the break.

The second half saw the conditions deteriorate even more and meant that hand tackling and solid defence work was the order of the game.

Although the match seemed destined for a draw, a stron gpassage of play by the PIT midfielder Cole saw him score the only goal of the day in the 82nd minute. With one minute to go Phillip Institute nearly had another with a shot going wide by forward Dieter Svoboda.

A 1-0 victory was quite satisfying under the conditions.

— P.O.

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CAULFIELD CITY 2 (Pappas 2nd & pen. 73rd). THOMASTOWN 2 (Higgins 6th, Griffin 60th)

IN a see-saw battle Caulfield City and Thomastown fought out a 2-2 draw at Princes Park last Saturday.

Although the score suggests a thrilling match it was marred by players more interested in wining free-kicks than scoring goals.

Not until the players got their priorities in order did the spectators get to see entertaining football.

Full credit must be given to referee Rudi Simonis who did his utmost to encourage the match to flow, even if he was battling against a stubborn group of athletes.

Caulfield managed to get off to a flying start, scoring after only three minutes through Con Pappas.

A corner taken by Kenny Drakeford proved too dangerous for Thomastown as it failed to clear in a goalmouth melee, allowing Pappas to grab the last touch before the ball hit the back of the net.

Not to be outdone Thomastown replied with an identical goal in the 6th minute.

Corfora swung a corner into the box from the right which 'keeper Nick Koletsas was unable to hold.

As the ball fell to the ground the failed attempts to clear the ball were punished when A. Higgins slammed his shot from a couple of metres out over the goal-line.

From this moment onwards the action ceased until the 60th minute when Thomastown substitute Phil Griffin scored against his former club.

Corfora received the ball down the left wing and sent a pin-point cross over, which just eluded the outstretched fingertips of Koletsas, only to find Griffin nicely positioned at the far post to head the ball into the net and hand Thomastown the lead.

The final 20 minutes saw the home side dominate, and was rewarded for its efforts with an equaliser in the 73rd minute.

Andrew Theoharous surged through the middle of the park and passed to John Bitsonis who crossed the ball into the penalty-area.

As players rose to meet the ball it was evident that Pappas was pushed in the back, so a penalty was awarded to the home team.

Pappas was equal to the task as he planted his spot-kick past Z. Janakievski and salvaged a point for his side.

— COSTA

●●●●●●●●●●

Contd. from page 5

SOUTH DISAPPOINTS AGAINST APIA

when Tsolakis was presented with an open goal in the 75th minute. Danny Wright had stolen the ball virtually from the hands of goalkeeper Tony Pezzano and cut it back to Tsolakis, who sliced his shot off the side of his boot.

South Melbourne dominated most of the play, with striker Paul Trimboli emerging as the player of the match.

Trimboli mounted a series of attacks, using his skills to twist and turn past the Apia centre-backs, but he lacked meaningful support when unloading the ball.

Tsolakis was a clear winner against his opponent, Jim Webber, and South Melbourne centre-back Steve Blair treated Rod Brown and the other Apia forwards with contempt.

Apia spent almost the entire match marking opponents and belting the ball aimlessly upfield.

Mirko Radosavljevic, as sweeper, marshalled the Apia defence effectively and Pezzano made several strong saves, denying Tsolakis scoring chances in the 24th and 43rd minutes. Trimboli in the 59th and Damian Mori in the 60th.

GEORGIE, DEMONS SHARE 6

fender and crossed from the left for Don Maclaren to head past Steve Watson in the 63rd minute.

Sunshine finally nudged ahead in the 72nd minute when Lewis swooped to tap the loose ball into the net after Watson could only parry a free kick taken from outside the box by Latif.

Blacktown's cause appeared to be lost until a goal-mouth scramble developed from a corner kick in the 82nd minute and Reynolds poked the ball home from close range.

● From Page 10

RESEVES

D Scots	2	V	Yarra U	3
Mel.Uni	8	V	C'corde	0
E.Hills	3	V	Maccabi	1
Upfield	1	V	Furlan	3
D.Valley	4	V	R.M.I.T.	0
I'city	0	V	C'well G	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
C'well	14	10	3	1	34	13	23
E.Hills	13	9	3	1	31	18	21
Furlan	14	6	2	4	52	20	18
D Scots	13	7	4	2	33	17	18
Upfield	12	7	1	4	27	21	15
I'city	13	6	2	5	30	11	14
Mel.Uni	13	5	3	5	32	19	13
Yarra U	10	5	2	3	30	21	12
D.Valle	12	3	2	7	21	29	8
Maccabi	12	2	0	10	18	46	4
R.M.I.T	12	1	0	11	12	46	2
C'corde	10	0	0	10	4	63	0

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SCOTCH & POM RUNNERS UP Wednesday Div. 2
Left to right: Eric Wilkes, Mick Tuffnell, Alex Fox, Alec McKay.
Front row: Willie Kerr, Tom McGuinness, Tom Gibson.
Final score: MPR 4 def. SCOTCH & POM 1.

DIV. FOUR WINNERS BLUES BROS. def. BAD NEWS 5-4.
For both teams it was their first season and the final provided plenty of action for their supporters.

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NICK VAN EGMOND Supervisor School Holiday Program watches Kerry Bright in action in the daily penalty kick competition.

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PANATHINAIKOS
RED STAR
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BAYERN MUNICH

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Rangers
Celtic
Aberdeen

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England
Everton
Manchester City
Chelsea

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Your Radio 3EA Weekend Score-Card

● *Tune into Radio 3EA at 6pm Saturday & Sunday to hear how your team fared.*

NSL
Sunday

MELB. CROATIA v MARCONI
MELB. JUST V SYDNEY OLYMPIC
HEIDELBERG UTD V WOLLONGONG CITY
APIA LEICHHARDT V ADELAIDE CITY
SYDNEY CROATIA V PRESTON MAKEDONIA
BLACKTOWN CITY V SOUTH MELB.
ST GEORGE V SUNSH. GEORGE CROSS

NYL
Sunday

MELB. CROATIA V CLAYTON
MELB. JUST V MALVERN CITY
CAULFIELD CITY V CLIFTON HILL
ALTONA GATE V SOUTH MELB

STATE LEAGUE
Saturday

BULLEEN V FRANKSTON PINES
ALTONA GATE V FAWKNER
MORWELL FALCONS V ST ALBANS
Sunday
BOX HILL V JUVENTUS
GREEN GULLY V CAULFIELD CITY
MARIBYRNONG V NORTHCOTE CITY
RINGWOOD CITY V SPRINGVALE CITY
CROYDON CITY V THOMASTOWN

VIC. LEAGUE
Div. 1 — Saturday

DOVETON V MOOROOLBARK
KNOX CITY V WESTGATE
Sunday
WERRIBEE V WESTERN SUBURBS
BROADMEADOWS C V OAKLEIGH
MORDIALLOC V SANDRINGHAM CITY
NUNAWADING V ESSENDON CITY
ALBION V DANDENONG
Div. 2 — Saturday
NORTH GEELONG V RICHMOND
SUNBURY UNITED V HEIDELBERG CITY
COBURG V YARRAVILLE
DONCASTER ROVERS V RINGWOOD UNITED
PORT MELB. V KEILOR
CLIFTON HILL V GEELONG
Div. 3 — Saturday
SEAFORD UN. V CORIO/GEELONG UTD
LALOR UNITED V ALTONA CITY
HAWTHORN V MORNINGTON
CLARINDA V ELTHAM/DIAMOND VALLEY UTD.
MOORABBIN CITY V HOLLAND PARK
BELL PARK V SPRINGV. UN
YALLOURN V CHELSEA
Div. 4 — Saturday
FERNTREE GULLY V CLAYTON
HAMLYN RANGERS V MORELAND PARK RANG.
ROSANNA V KARINGAL UN
PASCOE VALE V WILLIAMSTOWN
LANGWARRIN V KEYSBOROUGH
BENTLEIGH GREENS V REGENT
E. BRUNS/IVANHOE V BORONIA

PROV. LEAGUE
Div. 1 — Saturday

PRAHRAN V BERWICK CITY
MOSSFIEL RANGERS V WAV. UN
MELTON V WEST VALE
SOUTH YARRA V BRUNS. CITY
WEST MEADOWS V NORTH SUNSH.
SPRINGV CONDORS V EAST GEELONG
OAKLEIGH SUBURBS V MALVERN CITY

Div. 2 — Saturday

FRANKSTON UN V UNI OF MELB
LALOR V SOUTH SPRINGV.
ASCOT ST MARKS V PORT UN.
BALLARAT V BRINTONS
ALTONA EAST V GLENROY
MONASH UNIV. V FOREST HILL
SOUTH DANDENONG V CRANBOURNE

Div. 3 — Saturday

MITCHAM UN V WANTIRNA
NORTH CLAYTON V FITZROY CITY.
BRANDON PARK V ALTONA UN
BATMAN UNITED V LYNDAL EUN.
MEADOW PARK V CARRUM UN
MONBULK V RIVERSDALE
KEW EAGLES V RINGW. ROVERS

AMATEUR LEAGUE
Div. 1 — Sunday

HAWTHORN UN V PHILLIP INST.
COLLINGWOOD CITY V WAV. WANDERERS
LATROBE UNI V DIGGERS REST.
KEILOR UN V BALWYN CITY.
OAKLEIGH UN V EAST RICHMOND

Div 2 — Sunday

CAMBERWELL GRAM V DAIMOND VALLEY
RMIT V UPFIELD
FURLAN UNITED V ENDEAVOUR HILL
YARRA UNITED V INTERCITY
MACCABI V MELB. UNIVERSITY
CONCORDE V OLD SCOTCH

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● *Continued from Page 1*

Both Melbourne JUST and Heidelberg appeared doomed; JUST losing to struggling Wollongong and the Bergers going down narrowly to Adelaide City in a thrilling encounter.

Melbourne JUST meets George Cross at Skinner Reserve on Wednesday knowing that nothing less than victory will suffice.

Both Heidelberg and Melbourne JUST are now hoping that the NSL will throw them a lifeline in the shape of a re-vamped two-division league.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

● *Back row, left to right: Sean Lane, Robert Giandomenico, Vlatko Belic, Pat Marrama, Paul Della Rocca, Steve Glockner, Reno Minichiello, Frank McGrellis.*
Front row: Pat Giaccherini, Steve Marley, Willie Herd, Fabio Palleschi, Fausto De Amicis.

Cup to help pay tragedy's debt.

LONDON: The English FA Cup, football's oldest club tournament, was put up for sale on Saturday at a staggering $A33.35 million.

The Football Association wants a suitable company to put up the record sum to help league clubs meet massive financial commitments in the wake of the Hillsborough tragedy.

Millions will have to be spent on ground improvements after the death of 95 Liverpool fans at last season's semi-final, with a significant trend towards more seating.

The FA will be asking for £2 million (A$4.13 m) a year straight sponsorship for five years on top of a loan of £15m (A$30.98 m) that would be repaid at the end of that period.

FA chief executive Mr Graham Kelly explained that it would help ease the strain on the clubs' covers an dopen the way for England to again stage major events like the World Cup, but warned of the need to find the right name to go on the cup.

Two years ago Australian brewer Foster's fell short in its bid to sponsor the competition.

WEST END

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 25 W/E JULY 9

MELBOURNE CROATIA v MARCONI

● Zeljko Adzic

MELBOURNE JUST v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

● Basko Mitrovski

HEIDELBERG UN. v WOLLONGONG CITY

● Jeff Olver

● Bobby Russell

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Congratulations to all Oakleigh grand final contestants in Comp. 1.
RESULTS: Grade SA Magnificent 7 Nine Buster Hymens 8. ***Grade SF*** Daily Planet four Death Gods of Gor 2. ***Grade SB*** Hellenics five Malakas UTD 4. ***Grade SE*** Dribblers four Faster Pussycat 6. ***Grade SD*** Pumas nine Olympiakos 7.

OAKLEIGH SECONDS COMPETITION: Grade SC Hellenics II 28; Metal Mania 22; Maccas 18; The Terminators 16; Attitude 16; FAB 16; The Sponge. Fisherman 4; Auspoms Out 0. ***Grade SD*** Two Dogs 24; The Marketing Men 24; Red Army 16, Kaos 12; The Maneros 8; Wanderers II 8; The Butchers 8; Revivalist 4.

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